

1-1 By: Rodríguez S.B. No. 1204
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 10, 2015; March 17, 2015, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Agriculture, Water, and
1-4 Rural Affairs; April 1, 2015, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; April 1, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to a waiver of fees by the Department of Agriculture and
1-18 the Parks and Wildlife Department for certain educational programs
1-19 involving aquaculture and hydroponics.

1-20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-21 SECTION 1. Section 134.014, Agriculture Code, is amended to
1-22 read as follows:

1-23 Sec. 134.014. LICENSE FEES; WAIVERS. (a) The department
1-24 shall issue an aquaculture license or a fish farm vehicle license on
1-25 completion of applicable license requirements and the payment of a
1-26 fee by the applicant, as provided by department rule.

1-27 (b) The department by rule shall waive the initial and
1-28 renewal aquaculture license fees if the license or license renewal
1-29 is requested by a public school to establish and maintain an
1-30 educational program that will give students experience with a
1-31 sustainable system of agriculture that mixes aquaculture and
1-32 hydroponics. To qualify for the fee waiver, the school must submit
1-33 an application to the department showing that the school's program
1-34 meets the department's requirements, including requirements for
1-35 supervision, handling of the fish species, and control of wastes.

1-36 SECTION 2. Section 66.007, Parks and Wildlife Code, is
1-37 amended by adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

1-38 (c-1) The commission by rule shall waive the initial and
1-39 renewal fees for an exotic species permit if the permit or permit
1-40 renewal is requested by a public school to establish and maintain an
1-41 educational program that will give students experience with a
1-42 sustainable system of agriculture that mixes aquaculture and
1-43 hydroponics. To qualify for the fee waiver, the school must submit
1-44 an application to the department showing that the school's program
1-45 meets the department's requirements, including requirements for
1-46 supervision, handling of the exotic species, and control of wastes.

1-47 SECTION 3. (a) The Department of Agriculture shall adopt
1-48 rules required to implement Section 134.014, Agriculture Code, as
1-49 amended by this Act, not later than December 31, 2015.

1-50 (b) The Parks and Wildlife Commission shall adopt rules
1-51 required to implement Section 66.007(c-1), Parks and Wildlife Code,
1-52 as added by this Act, not later than December 31, 2015.

1-53 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-54 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-55 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-56 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-57 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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