

1-1 By: González of El Paso, et al. H.B. No. 70
 1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Hall)
 1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 30, 2019;
 1-4 May 7, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on
 1-5 Agriculture; May 9, 2019, reported favorably by the following
 1-6 vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; May 9, 2019, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

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

1-14 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-15 AN ACT

1-16 relating to a strategic plan goal by the Department of Agriculture
 1-17 to prevent crop diseases and plant pests in this state.

1-18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-19 SECTION 1. Chapter 12, Agriculture Code, is amended by
 1-20 adding Section 12.008 to read as follows:

1-21 Sec. 12.008. STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL: CROP DISEASE AND PLANT
 1-22 PEST PREVENTION. The department shall include in the department's
 1-23 strategic plan required under Chapter 2056, Government Code, a goal
 1-24 of preventing crop diseases and plant pests in this state by:

1-25 (1) improving the department's preventative
 1-26 management practices concerning crop diseases and plant pests;

1-27 (2) increasing the performance of activities directly
 1-28 related to crop disease and plant pest prevention;

1-29 (3) creating and implementing a strong surveillance
 1-30 program that includes activities designed to:

1-31 (A) identify and locate any possible source of
 1-32 infection or exposure to domestic or foreign diseases or pests that
 1-33 affect crops grown in this state; and

1-34 (B) aid the department in the early detection of
 1-35 any domestic, foreign, or emerging crop diseases and plant pests;

1-36 (4) evaluating the department's diagnostic procedures
 1-37 to ensure the performance of diagnostic evaluations and
 1-38 investigations occurs timely and accurately;

1-39 (5) improving the effectiveness of the department's
 1-40 control and eradication methods;

1-41 (6) evaluating and expanding, if necessary, the
 1-42 department's emergency management activities related to crop
 1-43 diseases and plant pests; and

1-44 (7) addressing how the department will educate
 1-45 farmers, agricultural producers, and communities that sustain
 1-46 agriculture in this state about crop disease and plant pest
 1-47 prevention.

1-48 SECTION 2. The Department of Agriculture shall, using
 1-49 existing funds, include in the first strategic plan under Chapter
 1-50 2056, Government Code, issued after the effective date of this Act
 1-51 the goal and methods of implementing the goal required by Section
 1-52 12.008, Agriculture Code, as added by this Act.

1-53 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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