

1-1 By: Thimesch (Senate Sponsor - Kolkhorst) H.B. No. 4644  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 3, 2023;  
 1-3 May 5, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on Water,  
 1-4 Agriculture & Rural Affairs; May 19, 2023, reported favorably by  
 1-5 the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; May 19, 2023, 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	X			
1-16	X			

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to an alert system for dangerous plant and wildlife pests  
 1-20 and diseases administered by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension  
 1-21 Service.

1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-23 SECTION 1. Subchapter K, Chapter 88, Education Code, is  
 1-24 amended by adding Section 88.823 to read as follows:

1-25 Sec. 88.823. PEST, DISEASE, AND QUARANTINE ALERT SYSTEM.

1-26 (a) With the cooperation of the Department of Agriculture, the  
 1-27 Texas Animal Health Commission, and the Parks and Wildlife  
 1-28 Department, the extension service shall develop and implement a  
 1-29 statewide Internet-based alert system for notifications related to  
 1-30 wildlife and plant pests, diseases, and quarantines. The alert  
 1-31 system must issue notifications for:

1-32 (1) a confirmed case of a dangerous plant or wildlife  
 1-33 pest or disease;

1-34 (2) the establishment, modification, or removal of a  
 1-35 pest or disease quarantine order; and

1-36 (3) any compliance agreements entered into with the  
 1-37 Department of Agriculture related to a pest or disease quarantine.

1-38 (b) The alert system established under this section must:

1-39 (1) issue notifications through e-mail; and

1-40 (2) provide for enrollment in the alert system for  
 1-41 delivery of a system notification.

1-42 (c) The extension service shall enter into a memorandum of  
 1-43 understanding with the Department of Agriculture, the Texas Animal  
 1-44 Health Commission, and the Parks and Wildlife Department to ensure  
 1-45 the extension service is able to issue a required notification  
 1-46 under Subsection (a) within 72 hours of an applicable action by  
 1-47 those agencies.

1-48 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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