

CHAPTER 225

H.B. No. 2219

AN ACT

relating to the re-creation of the Texas-Israel Semi-Arid Fund as the Texas-Israel Exchange Fund and to the powers and duties of that board.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. The chapter heading of Chapter 45, Agriculture Code, is amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 45. TEXAS-ISRAEL *EXCHANGE* [~~SEMI-ARID~~] FUND

SECTION 2. Section 45.001, Agriculture Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 45.001. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS; PURPOSE. (a) The legislature finds that Texas and Israel have many interests in common. They face many of the same difficulties in

agriculture; the geography of both areas produces semiarid climatic conditions; there is present in both areas a rising demand for a limited supply of water coupled with increasing pressures to minimize the use of energy in all aspects of agriculture. Scientific and technological cooperatives already produce close ties between the two areas while engaging in binational projects for scientific and industrial research and development.

A fund to support joint agricultural research and development by, *and the development of trade and business relations between*, Texas and Israel will address common problems and make substantial contributions to the development of agriculture, *trade, and business* in both areas. Since Texas has long emphasized broad-based agricultural research and Israel has originated and developed agricultural technologies designed to maximize production with minimal use of resources such as water and labor, each of the two areas will benefit by sharing information and expertise.

(b) The purpose of this chapter is to:

(1) establish a fund to promote and support practical and applied agricultural research and development that will result in mutual benefit to Texas and Israel and will help to provide solutions to food and fiber production problems wherever they exist, *particularly those relating to water conservation; and*

(2) *establish a program of mutual cooperation that will foster the development of trade, mutual assistance, and business relations between Texas and Israel.*

SECTION 3. Sections 45.002(2) and (3), Agriculture Code, are amended to read as follows:

(2) "Board" means the Texas-Israel *Exchange* [~~Semi-Arid~~] Fund Board.

(3) "Fund" means the Texas-Israel *Exchange* [~~Semi-Arid~~] Fund.

SECTION 4. Section 45.003, Agriculture Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 45.003. CREATION OF FUND. (a) The Texas-Israel *Exchange* [~~Semi-Arid~~] Fund is established within the department.

(b) The *fund* [~~Texas-Israel Semi-Arid Fund~~] is a fund in the state treasury.

SECTION 5. Section 45.005, Agriculture Code, is amended by adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

(f) *The fund shall encourage and support a program of mutual cooperation that will foster the development of trade, mutual assistance, and business relations between Texas and Israel.*

SECTION 6. The section heading of Section 45.006, Agriculture Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 45.006. TEXAS-ISRAEL EXCHANGE [~~SEMI-ARID~~] FUND BOARD.

SECTION 7. Sections 45.006(a), (d), and (i), Agriculture Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The Texas-Israel *Exchange* [~~Semi-Arid~~] Fund Board is created and composed of:

(1) the commissioner of agriculture;

(2) *six* [~~five~~] members appointed by the commissioner;

(3) *one member* [~~three members~~] appointed by the executive officer of The University of Texas System;

(4) *one member* [~~three members~~] appointed by the executive officer of The Texas A&M University System;

(5) *one member* [~~three members~~] appointed by the executive officer of Texas Tech University; and

(6) as nonvoting, ex officio members, the lieutenant governor, [~~and~~] the speaker of the house of representatives, *and the comptroller* or their designees.

(d) Appointed board members serve for staggered six-year terms. The terms of *one-third of the* [~~five~~] appointed board members expire on February 1 of each odd-numbered year. [~~The length of term of the appointed members of the first board shall be decided by lot at the first meeting of the board with the terms of five members expiring February 1, 1991; the terms of~~

~~five members expiring February 1, 1993; and the terms of five members expiring February 1, 1995.]~~

(i) The *board* [~~Texas-Israel Semi-Arid Fund Board~~] is subject to Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act). Unless continued in existence as provided by that chapter, the board is abolished and this chapter expires September 1, 2001 [1995].

SECTION 8. Section 45.008(a), Agriculture Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) If the objectives of the fund cannot be realized because of lack of cooperation with the appropriate entities in Israel or if the board is abolished by the legislature or by operation of [~~the Texas Sunset Act~~] Chapter 325, Government Code (*Texas Sunset Act*), any asset remaining that was received by gift or grant from Israel shall be liquidated and a pro rata share of any money other than revenue deposited in the state treasury to the credit of the *fund* [~~Texas-Israel Semi-Arid Fund~~] shall be returned to Israel.

SECTION 9. (a) The Texas-Israel Semi-Arid Fund Board is abolished, and the term of a member of the Texas-Israel Semi-Arid Fund Board expires on the effective date of this Act.

(b) As soon as possible after the effective date of this Act, the commissioner of agriculture shall appoint six members to the Texas-Israel Exchange Fund Board as provided by Section 7 of this Act, with two members' terms expiring February 1, 1995, two members' terms expiring February 1, 1997, and two members' terms expiring February 1, 1999.

(c) As soon as possible after the effective date of this Act, the respective executive officers of The University of Texas System, The Texas A&M University System, and Texas Tech University shall each appoint one member to the Texas-Israel Exchange Fund Board. At the first board meeting after the members appointed under this subsection are qualified to take office, the three members shall decide by lot the length of term of each member, with one member's term expiring February 1, 1995, one member's term expiring February 1, 1997, and one member's term expiring February 1, 1999.

(d) Until all members of the Texas-Israel Exchange Fund Board are appointed and are qualified to take office as required by this Act, a majority of the members who are qualified to serve on the board constitutes a quorum of the board, so long as at least four members are qualified.

SECTION 10. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on April 23, 1993: Yeas 117, Nays 0, two present not voting;
passed by the Senate on May 12, 1993: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved May 18, 1993.

Effective May 18, 1993.