

SUBJECT: Adding three animal diseases to the list of reportable diseases

COMMITTEE: Agriculture and Livestock — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Gonzalez Toureilles, Anderson, B. Brown, Crabb, Hardcastle, Kleinschmidt, Rios Ybarra, Swinford

0 nays

1 absent — Heflin

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*, Chris Copeland, Texas Veterinary Medical Association; Billy Howe, Texas Farm Bureau; Jason Skaggs, Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association; Josh Winegarner, Texas Cattle Feeders Association)

Against — None

On — Bob Hillman, DVM, Texas Animal Health Commission

BACKGROUND: The Texas Animal Health Commission maintains a list of livestock and animal diseases that must be reported to the commission within 24 hours of diagnosis.

DIGEST: HB 4006 would add bovine trichomoniasis, equine herpes virus-1, and equine viral arteritis to the list of diseases that must be reported within 24 hours after diagnosis. The bill also would remove reference to an obsolete disease list.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2009, and only apply to diseases diagnosed after that date.

SUPPORTERS SAY: The Texas Animal Health Commission already has adopted the three diseases mentioned in the bill to the list of reportable diseases. HB 4006 simply would give legislative approval the commission's decision. The statute requires additions to the list of reportable diseases to be approved formally by the Legislature .

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OPPONENTS
SAY:

No apparent opposition.