

- SUBJECT:** Grants to non-profits that partner with schools for agricultural projects
- COMMITTEE:** Agriculture and Livestock — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Gonzalez Toureilles, Anderson, B. Brown, Hardcastle, Heflin, Kleinschmidt, Rios Ybarra, Swinford
1 nay — Crabb
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 30 — 31-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Jennifer Canaday, Association of Texas Professional Educators)
Against — None
On — Catherine Wright Steele, Texas Department of Agriculture
- BACKGROUND:** Agriculture Code, Sec. 48.001 establishes a program under which the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) awards grants to public elementary and middle schools located in large urban school districts to establish agricultural projects. A school may not be awarded more than \$2,500 in one year.
Under current law, money flows through school districts to non-profit organizations that partner with schools.
- DIGEST:** SB 1501 would allow the Texas Department of Agriculture to award agriculture program grants to non-profit entities that partnered with public elementary or middle schools located large urban school districts. To be eligible, the school would have to provide a statement to TDA that the non-profit was partnering with the school. The non-profit organization would be required to submit a proposal about the project and a report detailing the results of the project. The bill would remove the limitation on the amount of grant money awarded to a school per year.

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The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2009.