

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
77R4006 BDH-D

S.B. 398  
By: Duncan  
Natural Resources  
2/13/2001  
As Filed

### **DIGEST AND PURPOSE**

Currently, due to the fragility of fresh produce, oftentimes food banks cannot get to the area to harvest donated produce in time and/or do not have the transportation resources to get that fresh produce to the food bank across the state before it rots. As proposed, S.B. 398 funds a grant program at the Texas Department of Agriculture to support food bank efforts to collect surplus or unmarketable fresh produce from the Texas agricultural community for distribution to low-income families across the state.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the Department of Agriculture in SECTION 1 (Section 20.001, Agriculture Code) of this bill.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Title 2, Agriculture Code, by adding Chapter 20, as follows:

#### **CHAPTER 20. GRANT PROGRAM FOR DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS**

Sec. 20.001. CREATION. Requires the Department of Agriculture (department) by rule to develop a program to award grants to nonprofit organizations for the purpose of collecting and distributing surplus agricultural products to food banks and other charitable organizations that serve needy or low-income individuals.

Sec. 20.002. ELIGIBILITY. Provides that a nonprofit organization, subject to available funds, is eligible to receive a grant under this chapter if the organization has at least five years of experience coordinating a statewide network of food banks and charitable organizations that serve each county of this state; operates a program that coordinates the collection and transportation of surplus agricultural products to a statewide network of food banks that provide food to needy or low-income individuals; and submits to the department, in the manner and time prescribed by the department, a proposal for the collection and distribution to food banks or other charitable organizations for use in providing food to needy or low-income individuals of surplus agricultural products, including a description, schedule of projected costs, measurable goals, and a plan for evaluating the success of the proposal.

Sec. 20.003. REPORT. Requires a nonprofit organization that receives a grant under this chapter to report the results of the project to the department in the manner prescribed by the department.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.