

- SUBJECT:** Adding plant pest and disease prevention goal to TDA strategic plan
- COMMITTEE:** Agriculture and Livestock — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — Springer, Anderson, Beckley, Buckley, Burns, Fierro, Meza, Raymond, Zwiener
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Kevin Ivey, West Texas Pecan Association; (*Registered, but did not testify*: David Gibson and Kenneth Hodges, Texas Corn Producers Association; Marissa Patton, Texas Farm Bureau; Ryan Skrobarczyk, Texas Nursery & Landscape Association)
- Against — None
- On — Jessica Escobar, Texas Department of Agriculture
- DIGEST:** CSHB 70 would require the Texas Department of Agriculture to add to its strategic plan the goal of preventing crop diseases and plant pests. The goal would include provisions for:
- improving the department's preventative management practices concerning diseases and pests;
 - increasing performance of activities directly related to disease and pest prevention;
 - implementing a surveillance program to aid in early detection of emerging diseases and pests;
 - evaluating the department's diagnostic and investigative procedures for timeliness and accuracy;
 - improving the effectiveness of the department's control and eradication measures;
 - evaluating and expanding, if necessary, the department's emergency management activities related to diseases and pests; and
 - addressing how the department could educate farmers, producers,

and communities that sustain agriculture about crop diseases and plant pests.

The Texas Department of Agriculture would be required to use existing funds to implement the bill.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.