HOW NEW TECHNOLOGY HELPS THE TEXAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DELIVER 20,000 DOCUMENTS* EACH SESSION

Presented by:
Brett Ferguson
Legislative Counsel
Texas Legislative Council
*84th Regular Session Requests*

- **Total Requests**: 35,146
  - **Legal**: 20,814
    - Bills, JRs, CCRs: 9,485
    - Subs & Amendts: 11,139
  - **Research**: 14,332
    - Bill Analyses: 9,224
    - Resolutions: 4,492
OVERVIEW

1. Lifecycle of a legislative draft request
2. Tracking a large volume of requests
3. Speeding the drafting and review process
4. Efficient quality control
5. Towards a paperless future
LIFECYCLE OF A LEGISLATIVE DRAFT REQUEST

Intake → Attorney Drafting & Review → Legal Editing → Document Production
A Detour on the Open Range: Example Request

- Open range
  - Animal owner may allow animals to roam free on neighbors’ land
  - Neighbor must fence OUT livestock

- Landowner is liable to livestock owner if landowner:
  - Does not fence out livestock with statutory fence; and
  - Maims or kills a head of cattle or a horse, mule, jack jennet, sheep, or goat.
    - Sheep and goats added in 2013. (H.B. 1819)
    - (Section 143.033, Agriculture Code.)

- Turkeys, hogs, and donkeys may roam free, but landowner not liable for maiming or killing those animals on landowner’s land. (Sounds like a bill request, right?)
AN ACT

relating to liability for injuring a trespassing sheep or goat.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 143.033, Agriculture Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 143.033. INJURY TO TRESPASSING ANIMAL. If a person whose fence is insufficient under this subchapter maims, wounds, or kills a head of cattle or a horse, mule, jack, [+] jennet, sheep, or goat, or procures the maiming, wounding, or killing of one of those animals, by any means, including a gun or a dog, the person is liable to the owner of the animal for damages. This section does not authorize a person to maim, wound, or kill any horse, mule, jack, jennet, sheep, goat, or head of cattle of another person.
SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act to Section 143.033, Agriculture Code, applies only to a person who maims, wounds, kills, or procures the maiming, wounding, or killing of a sheep or goat on or after the effective date of this Act. A person who maims, wounds, kills, or procures the maiming, wounding, or killing of a sheep or goat before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the maiming, wounding, killing, or procurement occurred, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.
TRACKING A LARGE VOLUME OF REQUESTS
LDR
(LEGISLATIVE DRAFT REQUEST SYSTEM)

- Client portal for legislative offices
- Request drafts
- Receive delivery of completed drafts
- Share drafts with other offices
- Electronically file bills (house)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Draft #</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Drafter</th>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Pending assignment</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Request #**: Submitted By Brett Ferguson on 10/4/2015 4:10 PM

**Request #**: Submitted By Brett Ferguson on 10/1/2015 12:53 PM

**Request #**: Submitted By OnTrack TestFour on 9/29/2015 11:31 AM
New Draft Request

INFORMATION CONCERNING DRAFTING SERVICES

Requests are generally prepared on a first in, first out basis. For more information, see the Guide to Texas Legislative Council Services.

Assignment of your request to a drafter is a priority for the TLC and it will be assigned as quickly as possible, but assignment may take a day or more. If your request still indicates “Pending assignment” in LDR within a few days after you have sent a request to the council, call a council receptionist, (512) 463-1155, to confirm that the request has been received. Describe the type of request so that the receptionist can direct your call to the appropriate person.

Basic Information

Legislature/Session: 84(R)  
* Document Type: Bill  
* Chamber for which document is intended: House, Senate, Both  
* Problem or issue to be addressed:  

Person submitting request: Brett Ferguson  
Contact Information: REJ 2.135, (512) 463-1151  
May confer with (optional):  
(Persons inside or outside your office with whom the council may discuss the request.)

Delivery Instructions

* ☐ Receive Electronic Copy Only  ☐ Receive Electronic and Hard Copies

Need changes to an undelivered request?  

Texas Legislative Council Delivery Procedure
**ONTRACK**

- Database used to track each draft request
- Request details searchable
- Workload reports
- Document repository
- View completed SALSA drafts
- View scanned folders
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Date Filed</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85R 36</td>
<td>07/10/2015</td>
<td>07/10/2015</td>
<td>(Sen.)</td>
<td>BEF-D</td>
<td>Open Meetings/Open Records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85R 100</td>
<td>09/14/2015</td>
<td>09/14/2015</td>
<td>(Sen.)</td>
<td>BEF-D</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85R 104</td>
<td>09/17/2015</td>
<td>09/17/2015</td>
<td>(Sen.)</td>
<td>BEF-D</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85R 112</td>
<td>09/29/2015</td>
<td>09/29/2015</td>
<td>(Sen.)</td>
<td>BEF-F</td>
<td>Occupational Regulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>BEF-F</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85R 122</td>
<td>10/02/2015</td>
<td>10/02/2015</td>
<td>TLC Legal Division</td>
<td>BEF-D</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>BEF-D</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Description) Relating to liability for injuring a trespassing donkey, hog, or turkey. (Test request)
SPEEDING THE DRAFTING AND REVIEW PROCESSES
SALSA ADVANCED SEARCH

- Database of final version of:
  - Drafts
  - Bills
  - Statutes

- Boolean Search

- Documents available in:
  - MS Word
  - PDF
  - HTML
AN ACT
relating to liability for injuring a trespassing sheep or goat.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 143.033, Agriculture Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 143.033. INJURY TO TRESPASSING ANIMAL. If a person whose fence is insufficient under this subchapter maims, wounds, or kills a head of cattle or a horse, mule, jack, [etc.] jennet, sheep,
Attorneys use to draft legislation
Templates for each document type
OT Save
- Saves document to network repository
- Associated with OnTrack request number
New

RESEARCH
Personal Templates

TESTING
CMS(R) MERGE FORMS

HUMAN RESOURCES

TLC GENERAL

LEGISLATIVE

Bill Analysis for House.dotm

Bill Analysis for Research...

Bill Analysis Sections.dotm

Bill Summary....

Bill.dotm

Blank Legal.dotm

Blank Letter Size.dotm

Blank Letter.dotm

Code Chapter Template.dotm

Committee Amendment...

Committee Substitute... Committee Substitute...

Committee

Concurrent

Conference

Final

Create New

Document

Template

Preview

Select an icon to see a preview.
STATUTE SUMMONER

- Web-based platform to review drafts and bills
- Interprets statutory citations
- Generates tree-style index to SECTIONS of draft or bill
- One-click access to referenced statutes
- Historical statutes by date
BILL

SECTION 1
AG 143.033

SECTION 2
AG 143.033

SECTION 3

relating to liability for injuring a trespassing donkey, hog, or turkey.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 143.033, Agriculture Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 143.033. INJURY TO TRESPASSING ANIMAL. If a person whose fence is insufficient under this subchapter maims, wounds, or kills a head of cattle or a horse, mule, jack, jennet, donkey, hog, turkey, sheep, or goat, or procures the maiming, wounding, or killing of one of those animals, by any means, including a gun or a dog, the person is liable to the owner of the animal for damages. This section does not authorize a person to maim, wound, or kill any horse, mule, jack, jennet, donkey, hog, turkey, sheep, goat, or head of cattle of another person.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act to Section 143.033, Agriculture Code, applies only to a person who maims, wounds, kills, or procures the maiming, wounding, or killing of a donkey, hog, or turkey before the effective date of this Act. A person who maims, wounds, kills, or procures the maiming, wounding, or killing of a donkey, hog, or turkey on or after the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the maiming, wounding, killing, or procurement occurred, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

AGRICULTURE CODE

TITLE 6. PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, AND SALE OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS
SUBTITLE B. LIVESTOCK

CHAPTER 143. FENCES; RANGE RESTRICTIONS
SUBCHAPTER B. LOCAL OPTION TO PREVENT CERTAIN ANIMALS FROM RUNNING AT LARGE

Sec. 143.033. INJURY TO TRESPASSING ANIMAL. If a person whose fence is insufficient under this subchapter maims, wounds, or kills a head of cattle or a horse, mule, jack, jennet, sheep, or goat, or procures the maiming, wounding, or killing of one of those animals, by any means, including a gun or a dog, the person is liable to the owner of the animal for damages. This section does not authorize a person to maim, wound, or kill any horse, mule, jack, jennet, sheep, goat, or head of cattle of another person.

Amended by:

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., ch. 958 (H.B. 1819), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2013.
XRAP PROJECT

- Statute Summoner feature under development
- Finds references to a statute
- Improves speed and accuracy of conforming cross-references to an amended or repealed statute
No Cross References Found For AG 143.033.
AGRICULTURE CODE

TITLE 3. AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND PROMOTION

CHAPTER 49. AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Sec. 49.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Agricultural crisis" means an event or condition, including adverse weather conditions, water shortages, disruption in transportation, low commodity prices, an animal health issue, crop disease, or insect infestation, that could disrupt or jeopardize an aspect of the agricultural industry.

(2) "Agri-tech program" means the agricultural technology program established under this chapter.

(3) "Applied research" means research directed at gaining the knowledge or understanding necessary to meet a specific and recognized need, including the discovery of new scientific knowledge that has specific objectives relating to products or processes.

(4) "Eligible institution" means an institution of higher education, as that term is defined by Section 61.003, Education Code, that is designated as an eligible institution under Section 49.002(e).

EFFICIENT QUALITY CONTROL
STATUTE SUMMONER

- Legal editors use extensively to check accuracy of statutory citations in drafts
RAT  
(Read Against Tool)

- Compares statutory text laid out in bill to current statute
- Validates underlining and bracketing
- Makes manual read against virtually obsolete
- *Saves a ton of time and money*
relating to liability for injuring a trespassing donkey, hog, or turkey.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 143.033, Agriculture Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 143.033. INJURY TO TRESPASSING ANIMAL. If a person whose fence is insufficient under this subchapter maims, wounds, or kills a head of cattle or a horse, mule, jack, jennet, donkey, hog, turkey, sheep, or goat, or procures the maiming, wounding, or killing of one of those animals, by any means, including a gun or a dog, the person is liable to the owner of the animal for damages. This section does not authorize a person to maim, wound, or kill any horse, mule, jack, jennet, donkey, hog, turkey, sheep, goat, or head of cattle of another person.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act to Section 143.033, Agriculture Code, applies only to a person who maims, wounds, kills, or procures the maiming, wounding, or killing of a donkey, hog, or turkey on or after the effective date of this Act. A person who maims, wounds, kills, or procures the maiming, wounding, or killing of a donkey, hog, or turkey before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the maiming, wounding, killing, or procurement occurred, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.
Sec. 143.033. INJURY TO TRESPASSING ANIMAL. (a) If a person whose fence is insufficient under this subchapter maims, wounds, or kills a head of cattle or a horse, mule, jack, jennet, donkey, hog, turkey, sheep, or goat, or procures the maiming, wounding, or killing of one of those animals, by any means, including a gun or a dog, the person is liable to the owner of the animal for damages.

(b) I deleted the last sentence of Subsection (a) rather than bracketing it. I added Subsection (b) without underlining it.

Sec. 143.033. INJURY TO TRESPASSING ANIMAL.

If a person whose fence is insufficient under this subchapter maims, wounds, or kills a head of cattle or a horse, mule, jack, jennet, sheep, or goat, or procures the maiming, wounding, or killing of one of those animals, by any means, including a gun or a dog, the person is liable to the owner of the animal for damages. This section does not authorize a person to maim, wound, or kill any horse, mule, jack, jennet, sheep, goat, or head of cattle of another person.
TOWARDS A PAPERLESS FUTURE
THE PAST

- All drafts and bills were *printed* and physically distributed
- Slow
- Expensive
- Wasteful
CURRENT TECHNOLOGY

- E-copy only delivery in LDR
- E-filing
- Email distribution of bills
IDEAS FOR A LEGAL DRAFTING TOOL

- Easily insert statutes into bill draft
- Automatically draft recitals
- Automatically sort and number SECTIONS of a bill draft
- Enforce underlining and bracketing to reduce read against
- Insert boilerplate provisions
- Integrate with statute update process
CHALLENGES WITH ELECTRONIC REVIEW

- Maintain record of:
  - Prior council draft language
  - Current statutory language
  - Underlining and bracketing by drafter
  - Reviewer’s changes to drafter’s work
- Show changes on top of underlining and bracketing
- Preserve valid underlining and bracketing through review process
- Read definitions on page 1 beside text on page 40
OTHER NOTABLE FERGUSONS IN TEXAS GOVERNMENT

Pa Ferguson

Only Texas governor to be impeached

Ma Ferguson

First female governor of Texas