

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 9, 2009

House Bill No. 1583

HOUSE BILL NO. 1583 - By: FIELDS AND KOUPLIN of the House and JUSTICE of the Senate.

An Act relating to agriculture; creating the Weed Free Hay Certification Act; defining terms; providing for the promulgation of rules; specifying content of rules; authorizing the Commissioner of Agriculture to enter into certain agreements; authorizing the State Board of Agriculture to accept certain funds and to enter into certain agreements; providing for inspection; authorizing certain crops to be certified in certain circumstances; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

1 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma
2 Statutes as Section 3-211 of Title 2, unless there is created a duplication in numbering,
3 reads as follows:

4 This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Weed Free Hay Certification Act”.

5 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma
6 Statutes as Section 3-212 of Title 2, unless there is created a duplication in numbering,
7 reads as follows:

8 As used in the Weed Free Hay Certification Act, unless otherwise stated:

9 1. “Hay” means any agricultural forage crop product whether cultivated or not
10 cultivated, irrigated or nonirrigated, planted or naturally occurring;

1 2. “Noxious weeds” means those weeds, including any weed seed or propagative
2 plant parts, designated by the State Board of Agriculture as noxious and are prohibited,
3 and shall include those noxious weeds identified in Section 3-220 of Title 2 of the
4 Oklahoma Statutes;

5 3. “Qualified inspector” means a person qualified to identify noxious weeds
6 pursuant to standards promulgated by the Board;

7 4. “Weed free” means any hay certified as free of noxious weeds; and

8 5. “Weed-free certification” means hay inspected and certified as free of noxious
9 weeds pursuant to standards adopted by the Board.

10 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma
11 Statutes as Section 3-213 of Title 2, unless there is created a duplication in numbering,
12 reads as follows:

13 The State Board of Agriculture shall promulgate rules to carry out the provisions of
14 the Weed Free Hay Certification Act in accordance with the Administrative Procedures
15 Act and shall include, but not be limited to, rules concerning:

- 16 1. Weeds designated as noxious are prohibited;
- 17 2. Procedures for certification of weed-free crops;
- 18 3. Qualification standards for persons seeking designation as qualified inspectors;
- 19 4. Crop inspection procedures;
- 20 5. Treatment procedures for the eradication of viable noxious weeds from crops;
- 21 6. Procedures for identifying and tracking certified weed-free crops; and
- 22 7. Reasonable fees for obtaining certification.

1 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma
2 Statutes as Section 3-214 of Title 2, unless there is created a duplication in numbering,
3 reads as follows:

4 A. The Commissioner of Agriculture may enter into cooperative agreements with
5 Oklahoma State University for the purpose of training qualified inspectors in the
6 identification of those plants designated as noxious weeds by the State Board of
7 Agriculture.

8 B. For purposes of carrying out the provisions of the Weed Free Hay Certification
9 Act, the Board may accept funds from any agency of the federal government and may
10 cooperate and enter into agreements with any federal agency, any agency of another
11 state, and any agency of this state or its political subdivisions.

12 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma
13 Statutes as Section 3-215 of Title 2, unless there is created a duplication in numbering,
14 reads as follows:

15 A. Any crop for which weed-free certification is sought shall be inspected in the
16 field of origin and the inspection shall include an inspection of any ditches, fence rows,
17 roads, easements, rights-of-way, and buffer zones, as applicable, surrounding the field of
18 origin.

19 B. Crops containing any weeds designated as noxious may be certified if certain
20 conditions established in rules by the State Board of Agriculture are met.

21 SECTION 6. This act shall become effective November 1, 2009.

1 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL
2 DEVELOPMENT, dated 02-05-09 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.