School
Zapata High School

Senate Committee
Agriculture & Natural Resources

Senate Author
Sebastian Zapata

House Committee
Agriculture & Rural Affairs

House Authors
Orlando Gomez
Manuel Jasso
Alynna Gutierrez

Lobbyist
Dilyanna Chapa

Journalist
Danica Vela

Screwworm Abatement Trust (SWAT) Fund

HB 6 – SB 16

Bill Analysis

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Each year, invasive insects cost the global economy around $ billion, and invasive insects around $70 billion, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The bill author has informed the committee that New World Screwworm is rapidly approaching the Texas border and would cause serious harm to Texas livestock, wildlife, and the economy. This bill seeks to address this funding gap by creating a Screwworm Abatement Trust Fund under the Comptroller of Public Accounts to support activities related to the prevention, control, and eradication of the New World Screwworm.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

This bill amends the Government Code to require the Comptroller to establish and administer the Screwworm Abatement Trust Fund. The comptroller may distribute money from the trust fund to support screwworm-related programs, research, surveillance, and emergency response activities carried out by public agencies, institutions of higher education, or other governmental entities. The Comptroller also may coordinate with local, state, federal, and interstate agencies or institutions to ensure effective use of the fund. The fund consists of the following:

- gifts, grants, including federal grants, and other donations received for the fund;
- interest earned on the investment of money in the fund; and
- any money appropriated to the fund by the legislature.

STUDENT LEGISLATIVE SESSION
TEXAS STATE CAPITOL
EST. 2003

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The bill authorizes the Comptroller to accept gifts, grants, or donations from any source that are made for program purposes and requires this money to be deposited in the fund.

EFFECTIVE DATE

On passage, or, if the bill does not receive the necessary vote, January 1, 2027.