Screwworm Abatement Trust (SWAT) Fund

HB 6 – SB 16

Fiscal Note

School
Zapata High School

Senate Committee
Agriculture & Natural Resources

Senate Author
Sebastian Zapata

House Committee
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Orlando Gomez
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State Government Impact
Estimated Two-Year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds: A negative impact of approximately ($10,000,000) for the 2027–2028 biennium.

Fiscal Analysis
The bill would amend the Government Code to establish the Screwworm Abatement Trust (SWAT) Fund as a trust fund outside the state treasury, administered by the Texas Comptroller.

The fund would support activities related to the prevention, control, and eradication of the New World Screwworm, including livestock inspections, preventative treatments, research, surveillance, emergency response, and coordination among governmental agencies.

For purposes of this fiscal estimate, the state is assumed to appropriate $10 million to establish and initially capitalize the fund. The fund could also receive gifts, grants, donations, and investment earnings, with a maximum allowable balance of $50 million.

Methodology
The estimated state cost of $10 million for the 2027–2028 biennium assumes an initial General Revenue appropriation to establish and capitalize the Screwworm Abatement Trust Fund.

It is anticipated that the majority of these funds would be used to support livestock producers by subsidizing the costs associated with screwworm prevention, livestock inspections, treatment, and control measures. These efforts would help offset the financial burden placed on ranchers and livestock owners while encouraging widespread participation in prevention and eradication programs.

Funding would primarily support programs that reduce out-of-pocket expenses for ranchers, including veterinary inspections, preventative treatments, medications, surveillance, and emergency response measures. Assistance would be administered through eligible public agencies, institutions of higher education, and governmental entities.

The $10 million estimate is intended to provide initial funding for statewide prevention and treatment efforts, particularly in areas at greatest risk of screwworm infestation. Additional federal funding, private contributions, and other sources could supplement state resources without increasing the General Revenue impact.

Administrative expenses associated with managing the trust fund are assumed to be absorbed within existing Comptroller resources.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal impact to local governments is anticipated

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