

Revised Date: December, 1999

Texas Farm Bureau Legal Defense Fund: Approved Guidelines

The Texas Farm Bureau Legal Defense Fund ("the Fund") was authorized by the Texas Farm Bureau ("TFB") voting delegate action which adopted the Project 2000 Committee Report on December 1, 1998, and the initial guidelines for uses of the Fund were approved by the TFB Board of Directors ("the Board") on February, 1999.

The following approved guidelines for uses of the Fund may be amended by the Board at any time, at its discretion, to further effectuate the objectives of the Fund. Whenever they are amended, the guidelines shall be republished to indicate their current effective date.

A. GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. The official names for the Fund shall be the Texas Farm Bureau Legal Defense Fund or, alternatively, the TFB Legal Defense Fund.
2. Effective November 1, 1999, the Fund shall consist of a TFB account comprised of earmarked portions of the annual dues of each TFB member, in the amount of fifty (50) cents per member per TFB fiscal year unless otherwise determined by the Board. Fund surpluses shall be carried over from fiscal year to fiscal year, and may be augmented from TFB regular budgets by Board action, or from voluntary contributions made by TFB members or by other individuals or entities. The TFB Comptroller will determine the method of accounting for funds and report fund expense and income activity and balances regularly to the TFB Board of Directors.
3. The Fund shall be used for the primary objective of implementing state and national Farm Bureau agricultural and rural policy issues through the state and federal court systems, by the approved participation of TFB as either a party or an intervenor; as an amicus curiae ("friend of the court"); or as a financial contributor to the policy-related litigation efforts of other individuals or entities.
4. The Fund shall also be used for the objective of protecting Farm Bureau philosophy and policies through approved participation of TFB in related non-litigation activities, including but not limited to such activities as legal research and analysis; statutory drafting; drafting of administrative rules and/or participation in administrative rulemaking; participation in contested administrative cases; and, briefing Attorney General opinion requests.
5. To the extent possible, TFB will make reasonable efforts to assure that the overall uses of the Fund are widely representative of geographical regions and commodity interests in the State of Texas.

(more)

Revised Date: December, 1999

Texas Farm Bureau Legal Defense Fund: Approved Guidelines

B. SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

1. The Executive Director will approve the law firm(s) to be used as outside counsel to implement uses of the Fund, and will assign appropriate staff as necessary for day-to-day administration of the Fund.
2. Legal research/analysis/statutory/rulemaking uses of the Fund will require approval by the Executive Director, or his designee, if the need cannot be reasonably met within the Legal Department, and will originate from or be reviewed with designated staff prior to approval.
3. Use of the Fund for friend of the court briefs or briefing Texas Attorney General opinion requests will require approval by the Executive Director and approved cost limitations if the need cannot be reasonably met within the Legal Department.
4. Use of the Fund for the participation of TFB as a party or intervenor in a public policy lawsuit or a contested administrative case will require approval by the Board. If timing is critical, and if determined by the TFB President that an emergency exists where immediate legal action is needed, the TFB President may make a decision to begin legal work and take legal action up to a \$5,000.00 commitment. The board will be advised of any such action as soon as practical by fax, e-mail, or by telephone.
5. Use of the Fund for legal assistance to TFB members, other individuals, County Farm Bureaus, or other entities will require a written request to the TFB President, approval by the Board, with any approved cost sharing and/or cost limitations. If timing is critical, the TFB officers may make a decision to begin legal work up to a \$5,000.00 commitment.