



The Senate of
The State of Texas
Austin 78711

RAUL L. LONGORIA

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Room 120, Capitol Building
Austin, Texas 78711

March 25, 1975

COMMITTEES:

CHAIRMAN:

Subcommittee on Rules

MEMBER:

Administration

Jurisprudence

Subcommittee on Civil Matters

State Affairs

Subcommittee on Nominations

Dr. Héctor García, Founder
American G. I. Forum
1315 Bright Street
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Dr. García:

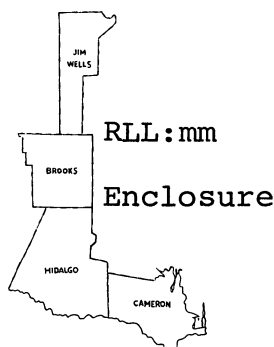
The Inter-Agency Task Force on Migrant Labor has recommended two pieces of legislation concerned specifically with housing for migrant agricultural workers. Senate Bill 483 provides for matching grants to labor housing providers up to \$20,000 each. Under the current Texas Constitution such grants are not permitted. To remedy this situation, I am sponsoring an amendment, Senate Joint Resolution 41.

My primary concern is to provide better living and health conditions for Texas migrants. Mindful of the political climate of Texas in regard to migrant agricultural workers and of the apparent success the State of Michigan has had with a comparable program, I believe such grants-in-aid to the housing providers to upgrade their labor camp housing for the benefit of the migrant is feasible at this time.

If you favor such a program of matching grants, please voice your approval to your Texas Legislators so they can carry out your wishes. For your information, a copy of the bill is enclosed. If I may be of any other assistance, contact me at my Capitol Office in Austin, Texas 78711.

Sincerely,

Raul L. Longoria
Raul L. Longoria



By Longoria

SJ.R. No. 41

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing an amendment to Article III, of the Texas Constitution,
2 to permit the state to provide grants for the construction of
3 migrant labor camps.

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 Section 1. That Article III of the Texas Constitution, be
6 amended by adding Section 50c to read as follows:

7 "Section 50c. The Legislature may authorize the State
8 Department of Health by law to provide grants for the construction
9 of migrant labor camps. The funds for the grants shall be provided
10 by legislative appropriations."

11 Sec. 2. The foregoing constitutional amendment shall be
12 submitted to a vote of the qualified electors of this state at
13 an election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday
14 in November, 1976, at which election the ballots shall be printed
15 to provide for voting for or against the proposition: "The
16 constitutional amendment to permit the state to provide grants
17 for the construction of migrant labor camps."

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By Longoria

S. B. No. 483

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a grant program for construction of migrant labor camps to be administered by the State Department of Health; and declaring an emergency.

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

Section 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the Migrant Labor Camp Construction Grants Act.

Sec. 2. DEFINITIONS. As used in this Act:

(1) "Migrant agricultural worker" means any person working or seeking employment in agriculture or related industry on a temporary or seasonal basis and who lives away from home while performing this work.

(2) "Migrant labor camp" means one or more buildings or structures, trailers or vehicles, contiguous or grouped together with the land appertaining thereto, established, operated, or used as living quarters for two or more migrant families and/or three or more migrant workers and accompanying dependents for more than three days whether or not rent is paid or reserved in connection with the use or occupancy of such premises.

(3) "Provider" means any individual, corporation, partnership, association, political subdivision, or any combination thereof which provides housing to migrant agricultural workers or which has agents or representatives who provide such housing.

(4) "Grant" or "state grant" means money made available

1 to, or given to, an eligible provider and which is not more than
2 50 percent of the cost of a remodeling or construction project
3 and which may not exceed \$20,000.

4 (5) "Grantee" means any individual, corporation,
5 partnership, association, political subdivision, or any combination
6 thereof operating or proposing to operate an agricultural labor
7 camp pursuant to Chapter 788, Acts of the 62nd Legislature, Regular
8 Session, 1971 (Article 5221e-1, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes),
9 who makes application for a grant under this Act and who signs
10 an acceptance agreement with the State Department of Health.

11 (6) "Construction" means remodeling, reconstruction, or
12 improving of existing housing, the building of new structures for
13 migrant agricultural workers, or the installation of facilities
14 incidental or appurtenant thereto.

15 (7) "Department" means the State Department of Health.

16 (8) "Commissioner" means the State Commissioner of Health.

17 Sec. 3. ADMINISTRATION. (a) The commissioner shall
18 administer the grant program.

19 (b) The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations
20 to carry out the provisions of this Act and shall include minimum
21 standards for the migrant labor camps established under Chapter
22 788, Acts of the 62nd Legislature, Regular Session, 1971 (Article
23 5221e-1, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes).

24 Sec. 4. APPLICATION FOR GRANT. (a) A person seeking a
25 grant shall apply to the department on a form promulgated by the
26 department.

27 (b) The commissioner shall evaluate the application on the

1 basis of criteria such as the minimum standards, location of the
2 proposed construction, history of the applicant's relationship
3 with migrant labor, and financial capability of the applicant.
4 The commissioner may establish a priority list of applications
5 based on his analysis of the need of the proposed projects weighted
6 against the amount of funds appropriated to the program.

7 (c) If the commissioner approves the application, he shall
8 direct the department to authorize the grant.

9 (d) A grant may not be authorized for more than 50 percent
10 of the total cost of the construction project or \$20,000, whichever
11 is less. An authorized grant will not be paid until final approval
12 of the project on completion.

13 Sec. 5. APPROVAL AND PAYMENT OF GRANT. (a) After an
14 authorized project is completed, the grantee shall inform the
15 department of completion and file a claim for payment on a form
16 promulgated by the department.

17 (b) The department must inspect the completed construction
18 and report its findings to the commissioner.

19 (c) The commissioner shall approve the grant if (i) the
20 construction meets the minimum standards and (ii) the authorized
21 grant has been matched by proven expenditures of the provider
22 made by direct payments from grants or other aid from a person,
23 corporation, association, foundation, or governmental body.

24 (d) If the commissioner approves a grant, the department
25 shall pay the grantee within 30 days of the approval.

26 Sec. 6. POWERS OF DEPARTMENT. The department may:

27 (1) contract or execute other instruments necessary to

1 implement the provisions of this Act;

2 (2) agree to and comply with any stipulated conditions for
3 receiving federal financial assistance for the purpose of
4 remodeling or improving migrant agricultural worker housing;

5 (3) survey and investigate migratory labor housing
6 conditions and recommend to the governor, the legislature, and/or
7 related state agencies any legislation or other measures deemed
8 necessary or advisable to help correct any adverse conditions
9 encountered;

10 (4) make grants only if all laws, regulations, standards
11 regarding health and construction for the projects are followed;

12 (5) encourage community or private organizations to assist
13 in initiating remodeling projects as provided in this Act;

14 (6) provide or authorize inspection of construction projects
15 to determine if they comply with this Act and the rules promulgated
16 pursuant to this Act;

17 (7) accept gifts, grants, or other aid from any entity
18 named in Subsection (c) of Section 5 of this Act for the purpose
19 of implementing this Act.

20 Sec. 7. This Act takes effect only if and when the
21 constitutional amendment proposed by _____ J.F. _____, 64th
22 Legislature, Regular Session, 1975, is adopted and takes effect.

23 Sec. 8. The importance of this legislation and the crowded
24 condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and
25 an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule
26 requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house
27 be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this

- 1 Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and
- 2 it is so enacted.