

By: Murr

H.B. No. 2425

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the eligibility of land for appraisal for ad valorem tax
3 purposes as qualified open-space land on the basis of its use for
4 wildlife management.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 23.51, Tax Code, is amended by adding
7 Subdivisions (9), (10), and (11) to read as follows:

8 (9) "Predator control" includes predation management
9 activities conducted by a local predation management organization
10 or by Texas Wildlife Services in cooperation with the organization.
11 For land to be considered to be actively used for predator control
12 on that basis, the landowner must:

13 (A) be a member in good standing of the local
14 predation management organization and be current in the payment of
15 the organization's membership dues; and

16 (B) allow the local predation management
17 organization or Texas Wildlife Services acting in cooperation with
18 the organization reasonable access to the land to conduct at least
19 one of the activities the Parks and Wildlife Department defines as a
20 predation management activity.

21 (10) "Local predation management organization" means
22 an organization that:

23 (A) conducts predation management activities in
24 a defined geographical region; and

1 (B) expends at least 70 percent of the
2 organization's annual budget conducting predation management
3 activities or making contributions to Texas Wildlife Services.

4 (11) "Texas Wildlife Services" includes any of the
5 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Wildlife Services Program's
6 cooperative partners as authorized by Chapter 825, Health and
7 Safety Code, or any successor program having a substantially
8 similar predator control purpose.

9 SECTION 2. Section 23.521, Tax Code, is amended by adding
10 Subsections (e), (f), and (g) to read as follows:

11 (e) The Parks and Wildlife Department, with the assistance
12 of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, shall develop a
13 definition of "predation management activities" for purposes of
14 Section 23.51.

15 (f) The Parks and Wildlife Department, with the assistance
16 of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, shall develop a
17 membership form and instructions for using the form to be issued by
18 a local predation management organization to a landowner. A
19 landowner may present the form to a local appraisal office to prove
20 membership in the organization. The form shall include a
21 certification by the organization that the organization is a local
22 predation management organization.

23 (g) The comptroller by rule shall adopt the definition
24 described by Subsection (e) and membership form described by
25 Subsection (f) and include them among the rules distributed to each
26 appraisal district as provided by Subsection (a).

27 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.