

AN ACT

relating to special open season hunting of certain migratory game birds by veterans and members of the United States armed forces on active duty.

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

SECTION 1. Section 61.058, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) A special open season provided for by the commission under Subsection (a) may be combined with a special open season provided for by the commission under Section 61.059.

SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by adding Section 61.059 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.059. HUNTING OF CERTAIN MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS BY VETERANS AND ACTIVE DUTY ARMED FORCES MEMBERS. (a) The commission may provide for special open seasons during which the taking and possession of ducks, geese, mergansers, coots, moorhens, and gallinules are restricted to veterans, as defined by 38 U.S.C. Section 101, and members of the armed forces of the United States on active duty, including members of the national guard and reserves on active duty other than for training.

(b) A special open season provided for by the commission under Subsection (a) may be combined with a special open season provided for by the commission under Section 61.058.

(c) The commission by rule may prescribe the proof of

1 veteran or active duty status required of a person to participate in
2 a special open season under this section.

3 (d) If the commission by rule requires that a person
4 participating in a special open season under this section have in
5 the person's immediate possession proof of the person's veteran or
6 active duty status in accordance with commission rule, the rule
7 must provide that it is a defense to prosecution under that rule
8 that the person produces in court proof of the person's veteran or
9 active duty status in accordance with commission rule.

10 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 675 passed the Senate on April 9, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 18, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 675 passed the House, with amendment, on May 8, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 135, Nays 4, two present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor