

AN ACT

relating to the protection of aquaculture operations.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 2, Agriculture Code, is amended by adding Section 2.007 to read as follows:

Sec. 2.007. POLICY: AQUACULTURE. (a) In this section, "aquaculture" has the meaning assigned by Section 134.001.

(b) The agricultural policy of this state must recognize that aquaculture is a type of agriculture and must be awarded the same rights, privileges, and protections as any other type of agricultural operation.

SECTION 2. Section 134.001(1), Agriculture Code, is amended to read as follows:

(1) "Cultured species" means aquatic animals or plants raised under conditions where at least a portion of their life cycle is controlled by an aquaculturist.

SECTION 3. Section 251.002(1), Agriculture Code, is amended to read as follows:

(1) "Agricultural operation" includes the following activities:

- (A) cultivating the soil;
- (B) producing crops for human food, animal feed, planting seed, or fiber;
- (C) floriculture;

- 1 (D) viticulture;
- 2 (E) horticulture;
- 3 (F) silviculture;
- 4 (G) wildlife management;
- 5 (H) raising or keeping livestock or poultry;
- 6 [~~and~~]
- 7 (I) planting cover crops or leaving land idle for
- 8 the purpose of participating in any governmental program or normal
- 9 crop or livestock rotation procedure; and
- 10 (J) aquaculture.

11 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
12 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
13 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
14 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
15 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2271 was passed by the House on May 3, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 3, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2271 was passed by the Senate on May 16, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor