

By: Gervin-Hawkins

H.B. No. 3489

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use of an unmanned aircraft to locate and retrieve wounded or killed wildlife.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 62, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by adding Section 62.0115 to read as follows:

Sec. 62.0115. USE OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT FOR LOCATING AND RETRIEVING WOUNDED OR KILLED WILDLIFE. (a) To the extent permitted by federal law, a person may use an unmanned aircraft to assist in locating and retrieving wounded or killed wildlife on private land. The unmanned aircraft must be operated in compliance with:

(1) each applicable Federal Aviation Administration rule, restriction, or exemption; and

(2) all required Federal Aviation Administration authorizations.

(b) The commission may adopt rules as necessary to administer this section, except that the commission may not adopt a rule that requires a person to hold an authorization issued by the department or commission to use an unmanned aircraft as described by Subsection (a).

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.