

By: Leo-Wilson

H.B. No. 4992

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requirements for the closure of certain areas to the taking of oysters.

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

SECTION 1. Section 76.115, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(a) Subject to Subsections (c) and (g), the [The] commission may close an area to the taking of oysters when the commission finds that the area is being overworked or damaged or the area is to be reseeded or restocked.

(g) If the commission closes an area of public oyster beds under this section, the commission shall make available for private lease an area for the taking of oysters. The area made available under this subsection must be at least equivalent in size to the closed area.

(h) The Texas General Land Office shall authorize leases under Subsection (g) for a period of at least 10 years.

SECTION 2. Section 76.115, Parks and Wildlife Code, as amended by this Act, applies only to the closure of an area to the taking of oysters by the Parks and Wildlife Commission or the executive director of the Parks and Wildlife Department on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

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1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.