

BILL ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 1414
By: Christian
State Cultural and Recreational Resources
Committee Report (Substituted)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Currently, under Subchapter B, Chapter 66, of the Parks and Wildlife Code, there is no definition or regulation regarding catfish and how they relate to being caught on Toledo Bend Reservoir. For many of the residents in the area, commercial catfishing is a substantial income as well as way of life.

Toledo Bend Reservoir lies on both the Texas and Louisiana borders. Current law does not allow a commercial fisherman to catch fish on the Louisiana side of Toledo Bend and return through Texas waters to the Texas side. Therefore, this creates an inconvenience and added hassle to those wishing to do this.

The intent of House Bill 1414 is to allow for catfish caught on the Louisiana side of Toledo Bend to be carried from the Louisiana side back over to Texas.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 1414 amends Subchapter B, Chapter 66, Parks and Wildlife Code, by adding Section 66.120 CATFISH CAUGHT ON LOUISIANA SIDE OF TOLEDO BEND RESERVOIR.

This new section specifies how "commercial fisherman" is defined and provides that limits on catfish caught in this state by commercial fishermen does not apply to catfish caught on the Louisiana side of the Toledo Bend Reservoir.

C.S.H.B. 1414 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code by updating Section 66.121, relating to penalties imposed, to accurately portray the applicable Section number.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL TO SUBSTITUTE

The substitute version removes Subsection (c) of SECTION 1 of the original bill.