

By: Casteel

H.B. No. 2965

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use of state land for public hunting.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 12, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by adding Section 12.0261 to read as follows:

Sec. 12.0261. ASSESSMENT OF USING STATE LAND FOR PUBLIC HUNTING. (a) Not later than January 31 of each even-numbered year, the department shall request an inventory and assessment from all state agencies holding state land that may be suitable for public hunting, including land in the permanent university fund.

(b) Not later than June 1 of each even-numbered year, each state agency contacted shall provide the department with an inventory of the land the agency holds in this state and an assessment of the potential of each property listed on the inventory for use in a public hunting program to be managed by the department.

(c) Based on the inventories and assessments received under Subsection (b), the department shall identify land appropriate for public hunting. If the department finds that the economic benefit of making the land available for a public hunting program is greater than the costs to this state, including administrative, personnel, and environmental costs or costs associated with the loss of use of the land for other purposes, the department shall prepare a detailed proposal to implement a public hunting program for that

1 land.

2 (d) The department shall send to the affected state agency
3 its proposal for a property selected under Subsection (c). Before a
4 public hunting program may begin on land identified under this
5 section, the department and the affected agency must agree on the
6 terms of the proposal.

7 (e) Not later than December 31 of each even-numbered year,
8 the department shall report on the results of the assessments,
9 proposals, and programs under this section to the governor, the
10 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,
11 and the chairs of appropriate house and senate committees.

12 SECTION 2. Not later than December 31, 2003, the Parks and
13 Wildlife Department shall adopt any rules necessary to implement
14 this Act.

15 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.