

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

H.B. 1568  
By: Geren  
Agriculture & Livestock  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

In 1981, the Texas Legislature adopted the Protection and Preservation of Agricultural Operations Act, or as it is more commonly known, the Right to Farm Act. The definition of an agricultural operation included in the act is meant to be representative of what constitutes agriculture. Agriculture operations have undergone a great deal of change in the past twenty years and the current definition is somewhat antiquated.

Many owners of ranch land realized their marginal pasture land was more valuable as wildlife habitat than grazing for livestock. In recognition of this shift toward wildlife management by agriculture producers, in 1995 the Texas Legislature amended the definition of agriculture in the Texas Constitution and the Tax Code to include the term "wildlife management." Every general definition of agriculture since 1995 has included wildlife management.

Without the inclusion of wildlife management in the definition of an agricultural operation under Chapter 251 of the Agriculture Code, landowners engaged in wildlife management will not have the protections afforded to other agriculture producers under the act.

HB 1568 adds the term wildlife management to the definition of an agricultural operation in the Right to Farm Act.

### **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**

This bill amends the Agriculture Code, to include the term "wildlife management" in the definition of an agricultural operation.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.