

By: Kuempel

H.B. No. 2555

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 2555:

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C.S.H.B. No. 2555

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the humane dispatch of certain game animals and game birds.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by adding Section 61.060 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.060. DEFENSE TO PROSECUTION: HUMANE DISPATCH OF CERTAIN GAME ANIMALS AND BIRDS. (a) In this section:

(1) "Dispatch" means to kill by any humane method.

(2) "Game animal" has the meaning assigned by Section 63.001.

(3) "Game bird" has the meaning assigned by Section 64.001.

(b) It is a defense to prosecution for a violation of this chapter or of a regulation adopted or proclamation issued under the authority of this chapter by the commission that the actor dispatched a game animal or game bird that:

(1) was mortally wounded, not through the actor's conduct; or

(2) behaved in a manner that:

(A) is inconsistent with the manner in which a game animal or game bird that is not diseased typically behaves; and

(B) leads a reasonable person to believe that the game animal or game bird poses a substantial risk of serious harm to

1 itself, a person, or other wildlife.

2 (c) The commission may adopt rules, including rules
3 concerning the disposition of a game animal or a game bird that has
4 been dispatched under this section, to implement this section.

5 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
6 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
7 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
8 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
9 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.