

By: Averitt

S.B. No. 1669

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to revenue generated from and uses of public hunting lands and wildlife management areas.

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

SECTION 1. Section 81.401, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 81.401. ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT OF AREAS. (a) The department may acquire by donation, purchase, lease, or otherwise, and develop, maintain, and operate, wildlife management areas and public hunting lands.

(b) The department ~~[and]~~ may manage, along sound biological lines, wildlife and fish found on any land the department has or may acquire as a wildlife management area.

(c) The department may use money from the game, fish, and water safety account to accomplish the purposes of this section.

SECTION 2. Subchapter E, Chapter 81, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by adding Sections 81.4011 and 81.4012 to read as follows:

Sec. 81.4011. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "public hunting land" means land:

(1) owned, leased, or managed by the department, including a wildlife management area; and

(2) designated by the director as public hunting land.

Sec. 81.4012. APPLICABILITY TO STATE PARK LAND. This

1 subchapter applies to a state park only:

2 (1) on public hunting land in the park; and

3 (2) on specific dates designated by the department for
4 public hunting activities.

5 SECTION 3. The heading to Section 81.403, Parks and
6 Wildlife Code, is amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 81.403. PERMITS; FEES.

8 SECTION 4. Section 81.403, Parks and Wildlife Code, is
9 amended by amending Subsections (a) and (c) and adding Subsection
10 (a-1) to read as follows:

11 (a) The department may issue a permit authorizing access to
12 public hunting land or for specific hunting, fishing, recreational,
13 or other use of public hunting land or a wildlife management area.
14 The commission by rule shall prescribe the conditions for the
15 issuance and use of a permit under this section.

16 (a-1) Except as provided by this section [~~in Subsections (b)~~
17 ~~and (c)~~], permits for hunting of wildlife or for any other use in
18 wildlife management areas or public hunting lands shall be issued
19 by the department to applicants by means of a fair method of
20 distribution subject to limitations on the maximum number of
21 permits to be issued.

22 (c) The department shall charge a permit fee in the amount
23 set by the commission by rule. Revenue from permit fees for access
24 to state parks must be deposited to the credit of the state parks
25 account. Revenue from other permit fees under this section must be
26 deposited to the game, fish, and water safety account.

27 SECTION 5. Sections 62.064 and 62.065, Parks and Wildlife

1 Code, are repealed.

2 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.