

By: Hunter

H.B. No. 2874

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to granting certain counties authority to regulate the cutting of certain trees; providing a penalty.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 240, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Section 240.909 to read as follows:

Sec. 240.909. REGULATION OF TREE CUTTING IN CERTAIN COUNTIES. (a) This section applies only to a county with a population of 25,000 or less that borders the Gulf of Mexico and in which is located at least one state park and one national wildlife refuge.

(b) The commissioners court of a county subject to this section may prohibit or restrict the clear-cutting of live oak trees in the unincorporated area of the county.

(c) A person commits an offense if the person violates an order adopted under this section and the order defines the violation as an offense. An offense under this section is prosecuted in the same manner as an offense defined under state law.

(d) The county attorney or an attorney representing the county may file an action in district court to enjoin a violation or threatened violation of an order adopted under this section. The court may grant appropriate relief.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.