

Amend Amendment No. 113 by Kleinschmidt on page 363 to CSSB 1 (house committee printing) by adding the following appropriately numbered item to the amendment and renumbering the subsequent items of the amendment accordingly:

(____) Add the following appropriately numbered ARTICLE to the bill and renumber the subsequent ARTICLES and SECTIONS of the bill accordingly:

ARTICLE _____. SUPPORT FOR HABITAT PROTECTION MEASURES

SECTION _____.01. Chapter 403, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter Q to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER Q. SUPPORT FOR HABITAT PROTECTION MEASURES

Sec. 403.451. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter,

(1) "Candidate species" means a species identified by the U.S. Department of Interior as appropriate for listing as threatened or endangered;

(2) "Candidate conservation plan" means a plan to implement such actions as necessary for the conservation of one or more candidate species or species likely to become a candidate species in the near future; and

(3) "Endangered species," "federal permit," "habitat conservation plan," and "mitigation fee" have the meanings assigned by Section 83.011, Parks and Wildlife Code.

Sec. 403.452. COMPTROLLER POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) To promote compliance with federal law protecting endangered species and candidate species in a manner consistent with this state's economic development and fiscal stability, the comptroller may:

(1) develop or coordinate the development of a habitat conservation plan or candidate conservation plan;

(2) apply for and hold a federal permit issued in connection with a habitat conservation plan or candidate conservation plan developed by the comptroller or the development of which is coordinated by the comptroller;

(3) enter into an agreement for the implementation of a candidate conservation plan with the United States Department of the Interior or assist another entity in entering into such an agreement;

(4) establish the Habitat Protection Fund, to be held

by the comptroller outside the treasury, to be used to support the development or coordination of the development of a habitat conservation plan, a candidate conservation plan, or to pay the costs of monitoring or administering the implementation of such a plan;

(5) impose or provide for the imposition of a mitigation fee in connection with a habitat conservation plan or such fees as is necessary or advisable for a candidate conservation plan developed by the comptroller or the development of which is coordinated by the comptroller; and

(6) implement, monitor, or support the implementation of a habitat conservation plan or candidate conservation plan developed by the comptroller or the development of which is coordinated by the comptroller.

(b) The comptroller may solicit and accept appropriations, fees under this subchapter, gifts, or grants from any public or private source, including the federal government, this state, a public agency, or a political subdivision of this state, for deposit to the credit of the fund established under this section.

(c) The legislature finds that expenditures described by Subsection (a)(4) serve public purposes, including economic development in this state.

(d) The comptroller may establish a nonprofit corporation or contract with a third party to perform one or more of the comptroller's functions under this section.

Sec. 403.453. STATE AGENCY POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) Upon consideration of the factors identified in Subsection (b), the comptroller may designate one of the following agencies to undertake the functions identified in Subsections 403.452(a)(1), (2), (3), (5) or (6):

(1) the Agriculture Department;

(2) the Parks and Wildlife Department;

(3) the Department of Transportation;

(4) the State Soil and Water Conservation Board; or

(5) any agency receiving funds through Article VI

(Natural Resources) of the 2012-2013 appropriations bill.

(b) In designating an agency pursuant to Subsection (a), the

comptroller shall consider the following factors:

(1) the economic sectors impacted by the species of interest that will be included in the habitat conservation plan or candidate conservation plan;

(2) the identified threats to the species of interest;
and

(3) the location of the species of interest.

(c) The comptroller may enter into a memorandum of understanding or interagency contract with any of the agencies listed in this section to implement this subchapter and to provide for the use of the habitat protection fund.

Sec. 403.454. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. Information collected under this subchapter by an agency, or an entity acting on the agency's behalf, from a private landowner or other participant or potential participant in a habitat conservation plan, proposed habitat conservation plan, candidate conservation plan, or proposed candidate conservation plan is not subject to Chapter 552 and may not be disclosed to any person, including a state or federal agency, if the information relates to the specific location, species identification, or quantity of any animal or plant life for which a plan is under consideration or development or has been established under this section. The agency may disclose information described by this section only to the person who provided the information unless the person consents in writing to full or specified partial disclosure of the information.

Sec. 403.455. RULES. The comptroller or agencies identified in Sec. 403.453 may adopt rules as necessary for the administration of this subchapter.