

1-1 By: Morrison (Senate Sponsor - Hegar) H.B. No. 3279
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 10, 2013;
 1-3 May 10, 2013, read first time and referred to Committee on
 1-4 Agriculture, Rural Affairs, and Homeland Security; May 15, 2013,
 1-5 reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the
 1-6 following vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; May 15, 2013, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12			X	
1-13	X			

1-14 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 3279 By: Uresti

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to the uprooting of seagrass plants; creating an offense.
 1-18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
 1-19 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 66, Parks and Wildlife
 1-20 Code, is amended by adding Section 66.024 to read as follows:
 1-21 Sec. 66.024. SEAGRASS PLANTS. (a) In this section,
 1-22 "seagrass plant" means a flowering marine plant of the species:
 1-23 (1) Cymodocea filiformis, known as manatee grass;
 1-24 (2) Halodule beaudettei or Halodule wrightii, known as
 1-25 shoal grass;
 1-26 (3) Halophila engelmannii, known as star grass or
 1-27 Engelmann's seagrass;
 1-28 (4) Ruppia maritima, known as widgeon grass; or
 1-29 (5) Thalassia testudinum, known as turtle grass.
 1-30 (b) A person may not uproot or dig out any rooted seagrass
 1-31 plant from a bay bottom or other saltwater bottom area in the
 1-32 jurisdiction of this state by means of a propeller, except as that
 1-33 uprooting or digging out may be authorized by a commercial license
 1-34 or permit issued by the department.
 1-35 (c) It is a defense to prosecution under this section that a
 1-36 person:
 1-37 (1) anchors a vessel within an area containing
 1-38 seagrass plants and uproots a seagrass plant;
 1-39 (2) uses an electric trolling motor within an area
 1-40 containing seagrass plants and uproots a seagrass plant; or
 1-41 (3) operates a vessel in a manner consistent with the
 1-42 acceleration required to reach and stay on plane.
 1-43 (d) A person who violates this section or a proclamation of
 1-44 the commission under this section commits an offense that is a Class
 1-45 C Parks and Wildlife Code misdemeanor.
 1-46 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

1-47 * * * * *