

By: Kuempel

H.R. No. 2597

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Texas is home to the largest population of  
2 white-tailed deer in the nation, and deer breeding and hunting make  
3 important contributions to the state's economy; and

4 WHEREAS, A Texas A&M University study conducted in 2007 found  
5 that deer breeding and ranching generated over \$650 million  
6 annually and supported more than 7,300 jobs; as land ownership  
7 becomes increasingly fragmented, deer breeding is particularly  
8 well suited to the utilization of smaller tracts, and the industry  
9 is now one of the fastest growing in rural America; by 2012, Texas  
10 had permitted over 1,200 breeder facilities containing over 100,000  
11 breeder deer in nearly 200 counties; and

12 WHEREAS, Disease issues that arise in the deer industry are  
13 handled by the Texas Animal Health Commission, but most industry  
14 activities fall under the purview of the wildlife division of the  
15 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; although TPWD is noted for its  
16 vast knowledge of wildlife biology, it is the TAHC that maintains  
17 expertise in agriculture, animal husbandry, and related matters of  
18 genetics, health, nutrition, breeding, and marketability;  
19 moreover, the TAHC manages certain breeds of cervid animals,  
20 including red deer and sika deer; and

21 WHEREAS, Properly managing this growing industry is of  
22 long-term importance, and an in-depth consideration of relevant  
23 issues would be beneficial to this state; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas

1 Legislature hereby request the speaker of the house to create a  
2 select interim committee to study regulatory oversight of the deer  
3 breeding industry in order to ensure that the industry is served by  
4 the state agency tasked with promoting and ensuring animal health  
5 and productivity; and, be it further

6       RESOLVED, That the study include recommendations on measures  
7 to ensure the vitality of the industry and encompass assurances  
8 that the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will remain involved  
9 in the industry through its responsibility for issuing hunting  
10 licenses and providing game wardens; and, be it further

11       RESOLVED, That the committee submit a full report, including  
12 findings and recommendations for legislation, to the speaker and  
13 the members of the house of the 84th Texas Legislature when it  
14 convenes in January 2015.