

By: Phelan

H.B. No. 1979

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a bag limit exemption for certain participants in certain fishing tournaments in Chambers, Jefferson, Galveston, Hardin, Newton, and Orange Counties.

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

SECTION 1. Title 7, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by adding Chapter 290 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 290. CHAMBERS, JEFFERSON, GALVESTON, HARDIN, NEWTON, AND ORANGE COUNTIES

Sec. 290.001. BAG LIMIT EXEMPTIONS FOR CERTAIN FISHING TOURNAMENTS. (a) In this section, "fishing tournament" has the meaning assigned by Section [66.023](#).

(b) This section applies to a fishing tournament held on the southern stretches of the Sabine or Neches River, in the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, or in the Gulf of Mexico as those bodies of water lie within or are adjacent to the following counties:

(1) Chambers County;

(2) Jefferson County;

(3) Galveston County;

(4) Hardin County;

(5) Newton County; and

(6) Orange County.

(c) A participant in a fishing tournament who is part of a team affiliated with a college or high school may count toward the

1 participant's bag limit for largemouth bass a fish that is smaller
2 than the applicable size limit by not more than two inches.

3 (d) A fish counted under this section must be released after
4 weighing.

5 SECTION 2. Chapter 290, Parks and Wildlife Code, as added by
6 this Act, applies only to a fishing tournament held on or after the
7 effective date of this Act.

8 SECTION 3. (a) The legal notice of the intention to
9 introduce this Act, setting forth the general substance of this
10 Act, has been published as provided by law, and the notice and a
11 copy of this Act have been furnished to all persons, agencies,
12 officials, or entities to which they are required to be furnished
13 under Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, and Chapter 313,
14 Government Code.

15 (b) The governor, one of the required recipients, has
16 submitted the notice and Act to the Texas Commission on
17 Environmental Quality.

18 (c) The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has filed
19 its recommendations relating to this Act with the governor, the
20 lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of
21 representatives within the required time.

22 (d) All requirements of the constitution and laws of this
23 state and the rules and procedures of the legislature with respect
24 to the notice, introduction, and passage of this Act are fulfilled
25 and accomplished.

26 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
27 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, 2015.