

By: Murr

H.B. No. 3057

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a grant program for the purpose of  
controlling rodents and predatory animals.

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

SECTION 1. Title 5, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by  
adding Subtitle F-1 to read as follows:

SUBTITLE F-1. CONTROL OF RODENTS AND PREDATORY ANIMALS

CHAPTER 87. GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE CONTROL OF RODENTS AND  
PREDATORY ANIMALS

Sec. 87.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Extension service" means the Texas A&M AgriLife  
Extension Service.

(2) "Political subdivision" means a county,  
municipality, special district, river authority, or other  
governmental entity created under the authority of the state or a  
county or municipality.

(3) "Predatory animals" includes coyotes, mountain  
lions, bobcats, Russian boars, and feral hogs.

(4) "Rodents" includes prairie dogs, pocket gophers,  
jackrabbits, ground squirrels, rats, and other rodent pests.

Sec. 87.002. GRANT PROGRAM. (a) The department and the  
extension service jointly shall create and administer a grant  
program to make grants to political subdivisions and qualified  
nonprofit organizations for the control of rodents and predatory

1 animals.

2 (b) The commission, in consultation with the extension  
3 service, shall adopt rules to implement the grant program,  
4 including rules to govern:

5 (1) the qualifications for receiving a grant,  
6 including the qualifications for nonprofit organizations;

7 (2) grant amounts; and

8 (3) conditions for the use of grant money.

9 SECTION 2. Section 11.043(c), Parks and Wildlife Code, is  
10 amended to read as follows:

11 (c) Except as provided by Subsection (d), money in the  
12 account may be spent only for acquisition and development,  
13 maintenance, or operation of parks, fisheries, and wildlife  
14 projects that have been individually approved by the commission.  
15 Projects that directly provide hunting, fishing, or outdoor  
16 recreation opportunity to the public shall be given preference for  
17 funding under this section. Approved projects may include:

18 (1) acquiring land or facilities for use in any  
19 department program;

20 (2) developing and improving any land or facility  
21 owned or controlled by the department;

22 (3) servicing the debt on Texas park development bonds  
23 issued under Article III, Section 49-e, of the Texas Constitution  
24 or any other bonds issued for parks, fisheries, or wildlife  
25 projects;

26 (4) local park grants in Chapter 24 of this code;

27 (5) initiating or participating in partnerships to

1 enhance conservation of historical, cultural, or natural  
2 resources;

3 (6) operational and maintenance costs in association  
4 with any parks, fisheries, wildlife projects, or department law  
5 enforcement efforts in support of this code; ~~and~~

6 (7) meeting the requirements for providing matching  
7 money for any federal grants for parks, fisheries, or wildlife  
8 projects; and

9 (8) controlling rodents and predatory animals under  
10 Chapter 87.

11 SECTION 3. Section 151.801, Tax Code, is amended by  
12 amending Subsection (c-1) and adding Subsection (c-2) to read as  
13 follows:

14 (c-1) Except as provided by this subsection, the  
15 comptroller may not credit to the Parks and Wildlife Department or  
16 the Texas Historical Commission any amounts under this section that  
17 are in excess of the amounts appropriated to the department or  
18 commission for that biennium. In addition to amounts appropriated  
19 to the Parks and Wildlife Department from the proceeds described by  
20 Subsection (c):

21 (1) [7] the comptroller shall transfer to appropriate  
22 department accounts amounts from those proceeds sufficient to fund  
23 the state contributions for employee benefits of Parks and Wildlife  
24 Department employees whose salaries or wages are paid from  
25 department accounts receiving the transfers; and

26 (2) the comptroller shall transfer \$500,000 in each  
27 state fiscal year to the credit of the parks and wildlife

1 conservation and capital account.

2 (c-2) Money transferred under Subsection (c-1)(2) may be  
3 appropriated only for the purpose of controlling rodents and  
4 predatory animals as authorized by Chapter 87, Parks and Wildlife  
5 Code.

6 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.