

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 3271

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a deer management program commission.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 63, Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by adding Section 63.003, to read as follows:

Section 63.003. DEER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION. (a) In this section:

(1) "Commission" means the deer management commission;

(2) "Deer" means a white-tailed deer or mule deer;

(3) "Department" means the Parks and Wildlife Department.

(b) The commission is composed of the following nineteen members:

(1) two veterinarians who are members of the Texas Deer Association, one whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and one whom shall be appointed by the lieutenant governor;

(2) two wildlife biologists who are members of the Texas Deer Association, one whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and one whom shall be appointed by the lieutenant governor;

(3) two veterinarians who are members of the Texas Wildlife Association, one whom shall be appointed by the speaker of

1 the house of representatives and one whom shall be appointed by the  
2 lieutenant governor;

3 (3) two wildlife biologists who are members of the  
4 Texas Wildlife Association, one whom shall be appointed by the  
5 speaker of the house of representatives and one whom shall be  
6 appointed by the lieutenant governor;

7 (4) two representatives from the Texas Parks and  
8 Wildlife Department;

9 (4) two representatives from the Texas Animal Health  
10 Commission;

11 (5) two representatives from Texas A&M University, one  
12 whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of  
13 representatives and one whom shall be appointed by the lieutenant  
14 governor;

15 (6) two representatives of Texas A&M University -  
16 Kingsville, one whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house  
17 of representatives and one whom shall be appointed by the  
18 lieutenant governor;

19 (7) two representatives of Texas Tech University, one  
20 whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of  
21 representatives and one whom shall be appointed by the lieutenant  
22 governor; and

23 (8) the governor shall appoint a member of the public  
24 who has demonstrated a high knowledge of deer management to serve as  
25 the chair of the commission. The chair may not be a member of the  
26 Texas Deer Association or the Texas Wildlife Association.

27 (c) The commission shall study and make recommendations

1 regarding deer management practices for both white-tailed and mule  
2 deer, including:

3 (1) study and determine exact pharmaceutical  
4 withdrawal periods;

5 (2) study and develop guidelines for the denial and  
6 review of deer breeder permits;

7 (3) study and recommend practices for the  
8 identification of breeder deer;

9 (4) study and recommend practices for captivity of  
10 breeder deer;

11 (5) study and recommend practices for the transfer of  
12 breeder deer;

13 (6) study and recommend practices for the sale of game  
14 meat;

15 (7) study and recommend practices for the trapping of  
16 deer;

17 (8) recommend guidelines for the notification and  
18 appeal process regarding the depopulation of some or all of a deer  
19 breeder's herd; and

20 (9) recommend a date for the release of breeder deer  
21 prior to an open hunting season.

22 (d) A commission member is not entitled to compensation for  
23 the services provided as a commission member. A commission member  
24 may receive reimbursement for the member's actual and necessary  
25 expenses incurred in performing commission duties.

26 (e) The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas  
27 Animal Health Commission shall use existing resources to conduct

1 the study.

2 (f) The commission may solicit and accept donations from  
3 private and public sources for the purpose of this section.

4 (g) The commission shall meet at the call of the presiding  
5 officer and may hold additional meetings by telephone conference  
6 call if necessary.

7 (h) The commission shall hold at least three public hearings  
8 in locations selected by the commission to provide interested  
9 persons an opportunity to appear and speak on any subject relating  
10 to the powers and duties of the commission.

11 (i) Not later than January 1, 2017, the commission shall  
12 provide the department, the legislature, and the governor, a final  
13 report on deer management recommendations.

14 (j) Not later than January 1, 2019, the commission shall  
15 provide the department, the legislature, and the governor, a final  
16 report on the implementation of deer management practices.

17 (k) This Section expires and the commission is abolished on  
18 June 1, 2019.

19 (l) Not later than December 1, 2015, the governor shall  
20 appoint the chair of the commission, the speaker of the house of  
21 representatives, and the lieutenant governor shall appoint the  
22 members of the commission created under this section.

23 (m) The commission is subject to Chapters 551 and 552,  
24 Government Code.

25 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect  
26 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members  
27 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas

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1 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for  
2 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.