

By: Uresti

S.B. No. 1209

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the eligibility of land for appraisal for ad valorem tax  
3 purposes as qualified open-space land on the basis of its use for  
4 wildlife management.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 23.51, Tax Code, is amended by adding  
7 Subdivisions (9), (10), and (11) to read as follows:

8 (9) "Predator control" includes predation management  
9 activities conducted on a landowner's land by a local predation  
10 management organization or by Texas Wildlife Services in  
11 cooperation with the organization. The landowner must:

12 (A) be a member in good standing of the local  
13 predation management organization and be current in the payment of  
14 the organization's membership dues; and

15 (B) allow the local predation management  
16 organization or Texas Wildlife Services acting in cooperation with  
17 the organization reasonable access to the land to conduct the  
18 predation management activities.

19 (10) "Local predation management organization" means  
20 an organization that:

21 (A) conducts predation management activities in  
22 a defined geographical region; and

23 (B) expends at least 70 percent of the  
24 organization's annual budget conducting predation management

1 activities or making contributions to Texas Wildlife Services.

2 (11) "Texas Wildlife Services" includes any of the  
3 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Wildlife Services Program's  
4 cooperative partners as authorized by Chapter 825, Health and  
5 Safety Code, or any successor program having a substantially  
6 similar predator control purpose.

7 SECTION 2. Section 23.521, Tax Code, is amended by adding  
8 Subsections (e), (f), and (g) to read as follows:

9 (e) The Parks and Wildlife Department, with the assistance  
10 of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, shall develop a  
11 definition of "predation management activities" for purposes of  
12 Section 23.51.

13 (f) The Parks and Wildlife Department, with the assistance  
14 of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, shall develop a  
15 membership form and instructions for using the form to be issued by  
16 a local predation management organization to a landowner. A  
17 landowner may present the form to a local appraisal office to prove  
18 membership in the organization. The form shall include a  
19 certification by the organization that the organization is a local  
20 predation management organization.

21 (g) The comptroller by rule shall adopt the definition  
22 described by Subsection (e) and membership form described by  
23 Subsection (f) and include them among the rules distributed to each  
24 appraisal district as provided by Subsection (a).

25 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.