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| BILL ANALYSIS |

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| H.B. 2239 |
| By: Troxclair |
| Land & Resource Management |
| Committee Report (Unamended) |

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| **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**  Certain cities in Texas are regulating the Ashe juniper tree as a heritage oak tree and fining residents for cutting them down. Texans should have the ability to remove Ashe juniper trees on their private property without fear of a fine for doing so. Moreover, the removal of these trees can help to protect our aquifers, allow for a greater variety of plant life to survive, and reduce cedar fever. H.B. 2239 seeks to protect against municipal overreach and ensure that Texans have this ability. |
| **CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT**  It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision. |
| **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**  It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution. |
| **ANALYSIS**  H.B. 2239 amends the Local Government Code to prohibit a municipality from prohibiting the removal of or imposing a tree mitigation fee for the removal of an Ashe juniper tree on private property. |
| **EFFECTIVE DATE**  September 1, 2023. |