

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 269

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the creation of the Institute for Chronic Wasting  
3 Disease Research.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 86, Education Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 86.83 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 86.83. INSTITUTE FOR CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE RESEARCH.

8 (a) In this section:

9 (1) "Breeder deer," "deer," and "deer breeder" have  
10 the meanings assigned to those terms by Section 43.351, Parks and  
11 Wildlife Code.

12 (2) "Chronic wasting disease" means a transmissible  
13 spongiform encephalopathy infecting deer and related species and  
14 their hybrids.

15 (3) "Institute" means the Institute for Chronic  
16 Wasting Disease Research.

17 (b) The Institute for Chronic Wasting Disease Research is a  
18 component of Texas A&M University.

19 (c) The institute is under the management and direction of  
20 the board.

21 (d) The institute may employ personnel.

22 (e) The institute may accept a gift or grant from any public  
23 or private source for the benefit of the institute.

24 (f) The institute shall, in partnership with deer breeders:

- 1           (1) study the progression of chronic wasting disease;  
2           (2) analyze the genetic profiles of deer infected with  
3 chronic wasting disease;  
4           (3) develop:  
5                 (A) strategies to prevent chronic wasting  
6 disease;  
7                 (B) efforts to mitigate transmission of chronic  
8 wasting disease; and  
9                 (C) treatments for chronic wasting disease; and  
10           (4) evaluate the implementation of strategies,  
11 mitigation efforts, and treatments developed under Subdivision  
12 (3), including for breeder deer.  
13           (g) The institute may conduct an activity described by  
14 Subsection (f) at a location:  
15                 (1) for which a deer breeder's permit was issued, at  
16 the deer breeder's request; or  
17                 (2) operated by the institute.  
18           (h) A deer breeder who makes available to the institute a  
19 breeder deer for an activity described by Subsection (f) is  
20 entitled to compensation from the institute for:  
21                 (1) a breeder deer on which the institute directly  
22 conducts the activity, regardless of the location of the activity;  
23 and  
24                 (2) any breeder deer at the deer breeder's permitted  
25 location that the breeder is prohibited from selling, transferring,  
26 or releasing because the institute conducts an activity described  
27 by Subsection (f) at the location.

1        (i) Notwithstanding any other law, a deer breeder or the  
2 institute may transfer a breeder deer from the location for which  
3 the deer breeder's permit was issued to the institute to conduct an  
4 activity described by Subsection (f).

5        SECTION 2. The Institute for Chronic Wasting Disease  
6 Research is required to implement a provision of this Act only if  
7 the legislature appropriates money specifically for that purpose.  
8 If the legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that  
9 purpose, the institute may, but is not required to, implement a  
10 provision of this Act using other appropriations available for that  
11 purpose.

12        SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.