

1-1 By: Vasut, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Creighton) H.B. No. 609  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 28, 2025;  
1-3 April 29, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Water,  
1-4 Agriculture and Rural Affairs; May 19, 2025, reported favorably by  
1-5 the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 19, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

1-7	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10			X	
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to the cleaning of a structure used to grow oysters for  
1-20 cultivated oyster mariculture.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 26, Water Code, is amended  
1-23 by adding Section 26.0406 to read as follows:

1-24 Sec. 26.0406. GENERAL PERMITS FOR AQUACULTURE; EXEMPTION  
1-25 FOR CLEANING STRUCTURES USED FOR GROWING OYSTERS. (a) A general  
1-26 permit for aquaculture issued by the commission must allow the  
1-27 holder of a cultivated oyster mariculture permit under Chapter 75,  
1-28 Parks and Wildlife Code, to discharge into waters of this state  
1-29 waste related to the cleaning of a structure used to grow oysters  
1-30 for cultivated oyster mariculture in accordance with Subsection  
1-31 (b).

1-32 (b) A cultivated oyster mariculture permit holder cleaning  
1-33 a structure as described by Subsection (a):

1-34 (1) may clean the structure only:

1-35 (A) at the location where the permit holder is  
1-36 authorized to operate; and

1-37 (B) with water from that location;

1-38 (2) may not alter the water in any way before using the  
1-39 water for cleaning, including by adding a soap, chemical, or  
1-40 similar substance; and

1-41 (3) must comply with all other permit conditions  
1-42 established by the commission.

1-43 (c) In establishing a permit condition described by  
1-44 Subsection (b)(3), the commission shall consult with the Parks and  
1-45 Wildlife Department.

1-46 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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