

By: Orr

H.B. No. 4543

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the removal of a fence surrounding a breeder deer release site.

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

SECTION 1. Section 43.361, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by adding Subsections (c) and (d) to read as follows:

(c) The owner of land that is or was registered as a release site with the department may remove a fence described by Subsection

(a) if:

(1) at least five years have elapsed from the most recent date breeder deer were released on the site;

(2) the owner notifies each adjacent landowner in the form and manner prescribed by the department of the owner's intention to remove the fence;

(3) the site has not more than a trace connection to a facility on which chronic wasting disease has been detected; and

(4) the department certifies that no deer released on the site has been epidemiologically associated with a positive result of a test for chronic wasting disease.

(d) The department may not make the certification described by Subsection (c)(4) unless the department has a confidence level of at least:

(1) 95 percent that chronic wasting disease is not present at greater than five percent prevalence over a five-year

1 testing period, if:

2 (A) the release site has no connection to a
3 facility on which chronic wasting disease has been detected;

4 (B) all deer released on the site display visible
5 identification allowing for individual identification at a
6 distance; and

7 (C) the site has complied with all applicable
8 commission rules and department registration and permitting
9 requirements and has not had any violations relating to a permit
10 described by Section [12.601](#); or

11 (2) 99 percent that chronic wasting disease is not
12 present at greater than one percent prevalence over a five-year
13 testing period, if the release site:

14 (A) has not more than a trace connection to a
15 facility on which chronic wasting disease has been detected; and

16 (B) otherwise does not satisfy the requirements
17 of Subdivisions (1)(A)-(C).

18 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.