

By: Metcalf

H. B. No. 5458

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to a study of the effectiveness of rules implemented by the
3 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department governing the management of
4 chronic wasting disease and of cervid resistance to chronic wasting
5 disease.

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

7 SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

(1) "Chronic wasting disease" means a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy infecting cervids.

10 (2) "Department" means the Texas Parks and Wildlife
11 Department.

12 SECTION 2. STUDY OF RULES AND POLICIES RELATING TO CHRONIC
13 WASTING DISEASE REQUIRED. (a) Using existing resources, the
14 department shall conduct a study assessing the effectiveness of all
15 agency rules and policies pertaining to the containment and
16 management of chronic wasting disease.

17 (b) The study required by Subsection (a) shall, to the
18 extent practicable:

19 (1) include a comparative analysis of the applicable
20 rules and policies implemented by the department and agencies of
21 other state governments responsible for containing and managing
22 chronic wasting disease;

23 (2) assess the overall benefits and deficiencies of
24 the applicable rules and policies;

H.B. No. 5458

4 SECTION 3. PUBLIC INPUT REQUIRED. In conducting the study
5 required under Section 2(a), the department shall:

10 (2) provide an online forum on the department's
11 Internet website through which members of the public may submit
12 commentary regarding the applicable rules and policies for not less
13 than 60 days; and

14 (3) respond to each public comment submitted during
15 the hearing or through the Internet portal required by Subdivisions
16 (1) and (2) respectively.

17 SECTION 4. SUBMISSION DEADLINE. (a) Not later than
18 December 1, 2026, the department shall complete the study required
19 by Section 2(a) and provide a report regarding the study's findings
20 to:

21 (1) the governor;

22 (2) the lieutenant governor;

23 (3) the speaker of the house of representatives;

24 (4) each member of the committee of the senate having

25 primary jurisdiction over wildlife matters; and

26 (5) each member of the committee of the house of

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H.B. No. 5458

4 SECTION 5. EXPIRATION. This Act expires May 31, 2027.

5 SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September
6 1, 2025.