

By: Perry

S.B. No. 2843

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to a study of the effectiveness of rules and policies
3 implemented by the Parks and Wildlife Department to manage and
4 contain chronic wasting disease and of cervid resistance to chronic
5 wasting 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 Parks and Wildlife
11 Department.

12 SECTION 2. STUDY RELATING TO CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE. (a)
13 Using existing resources, the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research
14 Institute at Texas A&M University--Kingsville, the Texas A&M
15 College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, the Texas
16 Tech University School of Veterinary Medicine, and The University
17 of Texas Southwestern Medical Center Peter O'Donnell Jr. Brain
18 Institute, in conjunction with the department, shall conduct a
19 study assessing:

20 (1) the effectiveness of rules and policies
21 implemented by the department to manage and contain chronic wasting
22 disease; and

23 (2) cervid resistance to chronic wasting disease.

24 (b) The study required by Subsection (a) of this section

1 shall, to the extent practicable, include:

2 (1) a comparative analysis of the applicable rules and
3 policies implemented by the department and agencies of other states
4 responsible for managing and containing chronic wasting disease;

5 (2) an assessment of the benefits and deficiencies of
6 the applicable rules and policies;

7 (3) a comparative analysis of cervid genotypes to
8 determine resistance to chronic wasting disease; and

9 (4) scientific and statistical data relevant to
10 Subdivisions (1)-(3) of this subsection.

11 SECTION 3. PUBLIC INPUT REQUIRED. In conducting the study
12 required under Section 2(a) of this Act, the department shall:

13 (1) hold a hearing in a publicly accessible location
14 to provide a public forum for the submission of written and oral
15 comments from members of the public regarding the applicable rules
16 and policies;

17 (2) for not less than 60 days, provide an online portal
18 on the department's Internet website through which members of the
19 public may submit comments regarding the applicable rules and
20 policies; and

21 (3) respond to each public comment submitted:

22 (A) during the hearing required by Subdivision
23 (1) of this section; or

24 (B) through the online portal required by
25 Subdivision (2) of this section.

26 SECTION 4. REPORT. (a) Not later than December 1, 2026,
27 the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M

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1 University--Kingsville, the Texas A&M College of Veterinary
2 Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, the Texas Tech University School of
3 Veterinary Medicine, and The University of Texas Southwestern
4 Medical Center Peter O'Donnell Jr. Brain Institute shall provide a
5 report of the study's findings to:

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

22 SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September
23 1, 2025.