

1-1 By: Perry S.B. No. 2843
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 14, 2025; April 7, 2025, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Water, Agriculture and
1-4 Rural Affairs; April 24, 2025, reported adversely, with favorable
1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0;
1-6 April 24, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-7	COMMITTEE VOTE				
1-8		Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-9	Perry	X			
1-10	Hancock	X			
1-11	Birdwell	X			
1-12	Blanco	X			
1-13	Gutierrez	X			
1-14	Hinojosa of Nueces	X			
1-15	Johnson	X			
1-16	Kolkhorst	X			
1-17	Sparks	X			

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 2843 By: Perry

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to a study of the effectiveness of rules and policies
1-22 implemented by the Parks and Wildlife Department to manage and
1-23 contain chronic wasting disease and of cervid resistance to chronic
1-24 wasting disease.

1-25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-26 SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

1-27 (1) "Chronic wasting disease" means a transmissible
1-28 spongiform encephalopathy infecting cervids.

1-29 (2) "Department" means the Parks and Wildlife
1-30 Department.

1-31 SECTION 2. STUDY RELATING TO CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE. (a)
1-32 Using existing resources, the Texas A&M College of Veterinary
1-33 Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, the Texas Tech University School of
1-34 Veterinary Medicine, and The University of Texas Southwestern
1-35 Medical Center Peter O'Donnell Jr. Brain Institute, in conjunction
1-36 with the department, shall conduct a study assessing:

1-37 (1) the effectiveness of rules and policies
1-38 implemented by the department to manage and contain chronic wasting
1-39 disease; and

1-40 (2) cervid resistance to chronic wasting disease.

1-41 (b) The study required by Subsection (a) of this section
1-42 shall, to the extent practicable, include:

1-43 (1) a comparative analysis of the applicable rules and
1-44 policies implemented by the department and agencies of other states
1-45 responsible for managing and containing chronic wasting disease;

1-46 (2) an assessment of the benefits and deficiencies of
1-47 the applicable rules and policies;

1-48 (3) a comparative analysis of cervid genotypes to
1-49 determine resistance to chronic wasting disease; and

1-50 (4) scientific and statistical data relevant to
1-51 Subdivisions (1)-(3) of this subsection.

1-52 SECTION 3. PUBLIC INPUT REQUIRED. In conducting the study
1-53 required under Section 2(a) of this Act, the department shall:

1-54 (1) hold a hearing in a publicly accessible location
1-55 to provide a public forum for the submission of written and oral
1-56 comments from members of the public regarding the applicable rules
1-57 and policies;

1-58 (2) for not less than 60 days, provide an online portal
1-59 on the department's Internet website through which members of the
1-60 public may submit comments regarding the applicable rules and

2-1 policies; and

2-2 (3) respond to each public comment submitted:

2-3 (A) during the hearing required by Subdivision
2-4 (1) of this section; or

2-5 (B) through the online portal required by
2-6 Subdivision (2) of this section.

2-7 SECTION 4. REPORT. (a) Not later than December 1, 2026,
2-8 the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences,
2-9 the Texas Tech University School of Veterinary Medicine, and The
2-10 University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center Peter O'Donnell Jr.
2-11 Brain Institute shall provide a report of the study's findings to:

2-12 (1) the department;

2-13 (2) the governor;

2-14 (3) the lieutenant governor;

2-15 (4) the speaker of the house of representatives; and

2-16 (5) each member of the standing committees of the
2-17 senate and house of representatives having primary jurisdiction
2-18 over wildlife matters.

2-19 (b) The Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine &
2-20 Biomedical Sciences, the Texas Tech University School of Veterinary
2-21 Medicine, and The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
2-22 Peter O'Donnell Jr. Brain Institute shall make the report required
2-23 by Subsection (a) of this section available to any member of the
2-24 legislature or any member of the public on request and at no cost to
2-25 the requestor.

2-26 SECTION 5. EXPIRATION. This Act expires May 31, 2027.

2-27 SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September
2-28 1, 2025.

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