

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 89TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 23, 2025

TO: Honorable Charles Perry, Chair, Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

FROM: Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: SB2801 by Hughes (relating to a permit issued by the Parks and Wildlife Department for certain hunting dog field trials; authorizing a fee.), **Committee Report 1st House, Substituted**

The fiscal implications of the bill cannot be determined because the number of newly created field trial permits that would be issued and the number of hunting licenses currently issued under Parks and Wildlife Code Chapter 42 that would no longer be issued is unknown.

This bill would make no appropriation but could provide the legal basis for an appropriation of funds to implement the provisions of the bill.

The bill would amend the Parks and Wildlife code to allow a person to apply to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) for a Field Trial Permit with a \$50 fee that would authorize participants in the field trial event to use dogs to hunt for non-game animals such as squirrels or other fur-bearing animals. The permit would be valid for nine consecutive days on private property or certain public land authorized by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission (Commission) that would be specified in the permit. The bill would exempt participants under the Field Trial Permit from the hunting license requirement established in Parks and Wildlife Code Chapter 42. The bill would require the revenue from the permit fees to be deposited to the credit of the General Revenue-Dedicated Game, Fish, and Water Safety Account No 9.

The bill would require the Commission to adopt rules necessary to implement the provisions of the bill. The bill would take effect immediately upon receiving a two-thirds majority votes in both houses; otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2025.

Based on analysis by the Comptroller of Public Accounts and TPWD, the revenue implications of the bill cannot be determined because the number of newly created field trial permits that would be issued and the number of hunting licenses currently issued under Parks and Wildlife Code Chapter 42 that would no longer be issued is unknown.

Based on information provided by TPWD, it is assumed that administrative costs as well as costs for programming changes to the hunting/fishing license system and transactions processed through it related to third party vendor involvement could be absorbed using existing resources.

Note: This legislation would do one or more of the following: create or recreate a dedicated account in the General Revenue Fund, create or recreate a special or trust fund either in, with, or outside the Treasury, or create a dedicated revenue source. The fund, account, or revenue dedication included in this bill would be subject to funds consolidation review by the current Legislature.

Local Government Impact

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 304 Comptroller of Public Accounts, 802 Parks and Wildlife Department

LBB Staff: JMc, FV, MW, RSTE