The House Committee on Culture, Recreation & Tourism

89th Legislature
September 30, 2026
10:00 a.m.
E2.012

Pursuant to a notice posted on September 23, 2026, the House Committee on Culture, Recreation & Tourism met in a public hearing and was called to order by the chair, Representative Metcalf, at 10:01 a.m.

The initial quorum call was answered as follows: Representatives Metcalf; Flores; Cole; Orr; and Ward Johnson.

A quorum was present.

The Chair made opening remarks.

The committee heard testimony on the following interim charge:

Cultivated Oyster Mariculture: Evaluate the status of Texas' oyster mariculture industry, including various challenges such as barriers to obtaining insurance, access to capital, the lack of in-state hatcheries, additional research needs, and market access. Consider the public benefits of sustainable oyster farming and long-term industry stability on water quality and coastal ecosystems. Make recommendations to support the expansion and advancement of oyster mariculture in Texas.

Testimony taken/registration recorded. (See attached witness list.)

(Representative Kerwin now present.)

(Representative Martinez Fischer now present.)

(Representative DeAyala now present.)

Testimony taken/registration recorded. (See attached witness list.)

The committee heard testimony on the following interim charge:

Voluntary Commercial Oyster License Buyback: Study the current health of Texas' wild oyster reefs along with the impact of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) voluntary Commercial Oyster Boat License Buyback Program. Review TPWD's conservation strategy plans and determine whether additional state support is necessary to improve oyster habitat and achieve conservation goals.

Testimony taken/registration recorded. (See attached witness list.)

The committee heard testimony on the following interim charge:

Monitoring: Monitor the implementation and associated rulemaking of all legislation passed by the Committee and enacted by the 89th Legislature to ensure that legislative purposes are properly implemented, including the following:

- HB 1397, relating to the care, custody, and display of the letter known as the victory or death letter, the Texas Constitution, and the Texas Declaration of Independence.

Testimony taken/registration recorded. (See attached witness list.)

At 12:08 p.m., on the motion of the chair and without objection, the meeting was adjourned subject to the call of the chair.

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Rep. Metcalf, Chair

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Lauren McCarthy, Clerk