

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

C.S.H.B. 3057  
By: Murr  
Culture, Recreation & Tourism  
Committee Report (Substituted)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Livestock are a significant source of revenue in the rural parts of Texas where people make their living by farming and ranching. During these times of persistent drought, farmers and ranchers must closely watch the bottom line, and there is increased concern that the growing population of predatory animals is threatening livestock and property. The parties emphasize that the resources needed to help farmers and ranchers manage certain predatory animals are inadequate and underfunded. C.S.H.B. 3057 seeks to help address these threats.

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the committee's opinion that rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the Parks and Wildlife Commission in SECTION 2 of this bill.

### **ANALYSIS**

C.S.H.B. 3057 requires the Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service jointly to create and administer a pilot program to make grants for the control of coyotes and feral hogs to a county or a nonprofit organization located or operating in a county that has a population less than 3,000, contains a state natural area, and is adjacent to two counties that border the United Mexican States. The bill requires the Parks and Wildlife Commission, in consultation with the extension service, to adopt rules to implement the pilot program, including rules to govern the qualifications for receiving a grant, grant amounts, and conditions for the use of grant money. The bill's provisions expire September 1, 2017.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

September 1, 2015.

### **COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL AND SUBSTITUTE**

While C.S.H.B. 3057 may differ from the original in minor or nonsubstantive ways, the following comparison is organized and formatted in a manner that indicates the substantial differences between the introduced and committee substitute versions of the bill.

#### **INTRODUCED**

SECTION 1. Title 5, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by adding Subtitle F-1 to

#### **HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE**

SECTION 1.

read as follows:

SUBTITLE F-1. CONTROL OF RODENTS AND PREDATORY ANIMALS

CHAPTER 87. GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE CONTROL OF RODENTS AND PREDATORY ANIMALS

Sec. 87.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Extension service" means the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

(2) "Political subdivision" means a county, municipality, special district, river authority, or other governmental entity created under the authority of the state or a county or municipality.

(3) "Predatory animals" includes coyotes, mountain lions, bobcats, Russian boars, and feral hogs.

(4) "Rodents" includes prairie dogs, pocket gophers, jackrabbits, ground squirrels, rats, and other rodent pests.

Sec. 87.002. GRANT PROGRAM. (a) The department and the extension service jointly shall create and administer a grant program to make grants to political subdivisions and qualified nonprofit organizations for the control of rodents and predatory animals.

(b) The commission, in consultation with the extension service, shall adopt rules to implement the grant program, including rules to govern:

(1) the qualifications for receiving a grant, including the qualifications for nonprofit organizations;

(2) grant amounts; and

(3) conditions for the use of grant money.

SECTION 2. Section 11.043(c), Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) Except as provided by Subsection (d), money in the account may be spent only for acquisition and development, maintenance, or operation of parks, fisheries, and wildlife projects that have been individually approved by the commission. Projects that directly provide hunting, fishing, or outdoor recreation opportunity to the public shall be given preference for funding under this section. Approved projects may include:

DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

(1) "Extension service" means the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

(2) "Predatory animals" means coyotes and feral hogs.

SECTION 2. PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The Parks and Wildlife Department and the extension service jointly shall create and administer a pilot program to make grants for the control of predatory animals to a county or a nonprofit organization located or operating in a county that:

(1) has a population less than 3,000;

(2) contains a state natural area; and

(3) is adjacent to two counties that border the United Mexican States.

(b) The Parks and Wildlife Commission, in consultation with the extension service, shall adopt rules to implement the pilot program, including rules to govern:

(1) the qualifications for receiving a grant, including the qualifications for nonprofit organizations;

(2) grant amounts; and

(3) conditions for the use of grant money.

No equivalent provision.

- (1) acquiring land or facilities for use in any department program;
- (2) developing and improving any land or facility owned or controlled by the department;
- (3) servicing the debt on Texas park development bonds issued under Article III, Section 49-e, of the Texas Constitution or any other bonds issued for parks, fisheries, or wildlife projects;
- (4) local park grants in Chapter 24 of this code;
- (5) initiating or participating in partnerships to enhance conservation of historical, cultural, or natural resources;
- (6) operational and maintenance costs in association with any parks, fisheries, wildlife projects, or department law enforcement efforts in support of this code; ~~and~~
- (7) meeting the requirements for providing matching money for any federal grants for parks, fisheries, or wildlife projects; and
- (8) controlling rodents and predatory animals under Chapter 87.

SECTION 3. Section 151.801, Tax Code, is amended by amending Subsection (c-1) and adding Subsection (c-2) to read as follows:

(c-1) Except as provided by this subsection, the comptroller may not credit to the Parks and Wildlife Department or the Texas Historical Commission any amounts under this section that are in excess of the amounts appropriated to the department or commission for that biennium. In addition to amounts appropriated to the Parks and Wildlife Department from the proceeds described by Subsection (c):

(1) [;] the comptroller shall transfer to appropriate department accounts amounts from those proceeds sufficient to fund the state contributions for employee benefits of Parks and Wildlife Department employees whose salaries or wages are paid from department accounts receiving the transfers; and

(2) the comptroller shall transfer \$500,000 in each state fiscal year to the credit of the parks and wildlife conservation and capital account.

(c-2) Money transferred under Subsection (c-1)(2) may be appropriated only for the purpose of controlling rodents and predatory animals as authorized by Chapter 87, Parks and Wildlife Code.

No equivalent provision.

No equivalent provision.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

SECTION 3. EXPIRATION DATE. This Act expires September 1, 2017.

SECTION 4. Same as introduced version.