

**SUBJECT:** Establishing state fish and wildlife management policy

**COMMITTEE:** Culture, Recreation, and Tourism — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 4 ayes — Hilderbran, Kuempel, Gallego, Phillips  
0 nays  
3 absent — Baxter, Dukes, Dunnam

**WITNESSES:** For — Kirby Brown, Texas Wildlife Association; Tara Mica, National Rifle Association; Alice Tripp, Texas State Rifle Association  
Against — None  
On — Ann Bright, Texas Parks and Wildlife

**DIGEST:** This bill would amend the Parks and Wildlife Code by adding sec. 1.003 to the statute which would offer a policy on fish and wildlife management. HB 1352 would state that hunting and fishing would be preserved for Texans. The bill would provide that fish and wildlife would be managed by laws and rules that provided hunters, anglers, and trappers with the continued opportunity to take them by traditional means and methods. HB 1352 would provide that protection of fish and wildlife management would be consistent with the state's protection of wild animals, birds, and fish.  
  
The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2005.

**SUPPORTERS SAY:** The rights of Texas hunters and sportsmen are a tradition that deserves to be preserved and protected as official state policy. By placing the right to hunt and fish in statute, the Legislature would preserve the right to amend the rules and regulations regarding these endeavors. This bill would make hunting and fishing a legal right of every Texan instead of a privilege.

OPPONENTS  
SAY:

This bill would elevate hunting and fishing to a level that is not awarded to any other legal recreational activity. There is no place in the Texas statute for swimming or hiking. Hunting and fishing should be no different.