

- SUBJECT:** Lifetime hunting and fishing licenses for Texas-born non-residents
- COMMITTEE:** Culture, Recreation and Tourism — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Homer, D. Howard, Kleinschmidt, Kuempel, McCall, Phillips, Thibaut
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Dukes, T. King
- WITNESSES:** For — None
- Against — None
- On — Tom Newton, Craig Richlen, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- BACKGROUND:** Under Parks and Wildlife Code, ch. 42, a Texas resident may be issued a lifetime hunting license, a lifetime fishing license, or a lifetime combination license.
- The fee for a lifetime hunting and lifetime fishing license is \$300 each, or an amount set by the Parks and Wildlife Commission (commission), whichever is more. The fee set by the commission currently is \$600.
- The fee for the lifetime combination hunting and fishing license is \$500, or an amount set by the commission, whichever is more. The fee set by the commission currently is \$1,000.
- Non-residents of this state do not have the option to purchase lifetime licenses, including those who were born in Texas but now live outside the state. They must buy separate, non-resident hunting and fishing licenses each season at a cost of at least \$300 and \$55, respectively.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 2321 would allow a nonresident who was born in this state to be issued a lifetime hunting, lifetime fishing, or lifetime combination hunting and fishing license.

The fee for both residents and nonresidents born in this state would be increased to at least \$800 each for a lifetime hunting license and lifetime fishing license, and to at least \$1,500 for a lifetime combination hunting and fishing license. All license fees could be increased at the discretion of the commission.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2009.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

CSHB 2321 would allow native-born non-residents to purchase lifetime hunting and fishing licenses. People who were born in Texas and still own property in Texas, but now live out of state now have to buy non-resident licenses to hunt on their own property. CSHB 2321 would increase the number of people who could purchase lifetime licenses and would invite more people to engage in sporting activities across the state. This would result in more tourism and an influx of dollars for many Texas communities.

CSHB 2321 would generate revenue for the Lifetime License Endowment Fund, which the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department uses to acquire, develop, manage, and repair hunting and fishing areas.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

CSHB 2321 would allow a non-resident born in Texas to buy a lifetime license at the same price as a resident and would substantially increase the current price, especially for a lifetime combination hunting and fishing license. Although this bill would be beneficial to native-born Texans no longer living in Texas, it could discourage Texans actually living in the state from buying lifetime licenses. There is a difference in price for all other resident and non-resident licenses, and it should apply to lifetime licenses as well, especially since the number of people who would take advantage of the opportunity is likely to be small.

NOTES:

According to an estimate by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, CSHB 2321 would produce a one-time gain of \$616,000 to the general revenue-dedicated lifetime license endowment fund from the purchase of lifetime licenses, which would offset the revenue loss of \$114,526 to the general revenue-dedicated game, fish, and water safety account starting in fiscal 2010 due to the 1 percent decrease in non-resident hunting and fishing license sales.