

- SUBJECT:** Establishing a shared database for deer breeder reporting requirements
- COMMITTEE:** Culture, Recreation and Tourism — favorable without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Homer, D. Howard, Dukes, T. King, Kleinschmidt, Kuempel, McCall, Phillips
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Thibaut
- WITNESSES:** For — Dick Cain, Chase Clark, Texas Deer Association
- Against — None
- On — Kirby Brown, Texas Wildlife Association; Clayton Wolf, Texas Parks and Wildlife
- BACKGROUND:** The Texas deer breeding industry is required to report a reconciliation of their deer herd to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) annually. The deer breeders who sell their deer across state lines are required to submit a second report of the same information to the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) for purposes of monitoring chronic wasting disease.
- DIGEST:** HB 3560 would require the TPWD and the TAHC to jointly develop and maintain a database to be shared by both agencies. The database would have to include the reporting data that each agency required of deer breeders and to the extent possible, the agencies would be required to share the database to eliminate the need for a deer breeder to submit duplicate reports to both agencies.
- The agencies, by rule, would be required to provide incentives to deer breeders whose cooperation resulted in reduced cost and increased efficiency by offering reduced deer breeder permit fees and a permit with an extended duration.

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, 2009.

NOTES:

The companion bill, SB 1586 by Harris, passed the Senate by 31-0 on April 30 and was reported favorably, as substituted, by the House Culture, Recreation, and Tourism Committee on May 12 and recommended for the Local, Consent, and Resolutions Calendar.

According to the fiscal note, the TPWD anticipates an initial cost of \$602,229 for fiscal 2010 for the contracted services of three programmers as well as computers and other operating expenses to implement the database.