

- SUBJECT:** Removing shrimp farms from a TDA shrimp marketing program
- COMMITTEE:** Agriculture and Livestock — Reported favorably as substituted
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Gonzalez Toureilles, Anderson, B. Brown, Crabb, Hardcastle, Kleinschmidt, Rios Ybarra, Swinford
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Heflin
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify*, Ed McCarthy, Texas Shrimp Association; Fred Werkenthin, Jr., Texas Aquaculture Association)
- Against — None
- On — Catherine Wright-Steele, TDA
- BACKGROUND:** Agriculture Code, sec. 47.051 establishes the Texas Shrimp Marketing Assistance Program under the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). The purpose of the program is to promote and market the Texas shrimp industry, including both wild-caught shrimp and shrimp from farms. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) regulates the wild-caught shrimp industry, and TDA regulates shrimp farms. The program is funded by fees collected by TDA and TPWD.
- As the shrimp farming industry has declined in recent years, it has become more difficult for shrimp farmers to contribute fees to the marketing program. The wild-caught shrimp industry, on the other hand, continues to thrive and benefit from the program.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 4593 would change the scope of the Texas Shrimp Marketing Assistance Program to focus exclusively on the wild-caught shrimp industry. Program marketing campaigns would focus on wild-caught shrimp. The bill would eliminate the annual licensing fee for shrimp farms and remove the shrimp farm representative from the advisory committee.
- The bill would take effect September 1, 2009.

NOTES:

The companion bill, SB 2333 by Lucio, was considered in a public hearing by the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee on April 28.