
SUBJECT: Extending the duration of youth hunting season

COMMITTEE: Culture, Recreation & Tourism — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes — Ashby, Martinez, Bailes, Flores, Holland, Morrison, Troxclair
0 nays
2 absent — Collier, Garcia

WITNESSES: For — None
Against — John Shepperd, Texas Foundation for Conservation
(*Registered, but did not testify*: Joey Park, Texas Wildlife Association)

DIGEST: HB 555 would require the minimum length of a youth hunting season for game animals and game birds to be no less than seven consecutive days. The bill would not apply to special open seasons provided for the hunting of migratory game birds or waterfowl.

SUPPORTERS SAY: HB 555 would give youth more time to hunt before the start of the general hunting season and encourage outdoor activities for young adults.

CRITICS SAY: By extending the minimum length of the youth hunting seasons, HB 555 could create a conflict with other general hunting seasons. The bill could encourage youth to skip school when the youth hunting season conflicted with the school session. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission would be better suited to determine the duration of hunting seasons.