

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R2051 WP-D

S.B. 627
By: Truan
Border Affairs - Special
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As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, Texas owns acres of state park land within a few miles of the Rio Grande River under the jurisdiction of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). Federal agencies that are responsible for patrolling the border, interdiction of contraband, and capture of illegal immigrants have general powers to pursue suspects across land, regardless of its ownership, when in hot pursuit. State parkland is particularly vulnerable to damage from off-road vehicles. S.B. 627 directs the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to coordinate with agencies of the federal government to mitigate damage to the state parks.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 627 requires the Parks and Wildlife Department to work with federal, state, and local agencies to mitigate environmental damage to state parks.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 13.303, Parks and Wildlife Code, to require the Parks and Wildlife Department (department) to implement programs and coordinate with departments and agencies of the federal government, including the United States Border Patrol and the Drug Enforcement Administration, and other departments of the state and local government, if necessary, to mitigate environmental damages to any land under the control and custody of the department along this state's border with Mexico.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 1999.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.