

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

H.B. 1915  
By: Capelo (Lucio)  
Natural Resources  
5/11/2001  
Engrossed

### **DIGEST AND PURPOSE**

In many communities, there are caring neighbors and volunteers who are willing to offer their time and effort to help those with mental handicaps. For example, some mentally retarded individuals may enjoy outdoor recreations such as fishing but may not be able to obtain a fishing license for whatever reason. The ability for a neighbor or volunteer who has a fishing license to take these individuals fishing would be beneficial for both parties involved. H.B. 1915 exempts certain persons with mental retardation from the recreational fishing license requirement.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

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

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

H.B. 1915 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to exempt certain persons from the requirement to acquire a fishing license. The bill establishes that a fishing license is not required of mentally retarded individuals who are engaged in recreational fishing under the immediate supervision of a person who: holds a license; and has the permission of the mentally retarded person's family head or legal guardian to take the mentally retarded person fishing if the person is not a member of the family of the mentally retarded person. The bill also provides that a mentally retarded person who is engaged in recreational fishing must carry a note from a doctor stating that the person has been diagnosed as mentally retarded.

Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.