

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R6533 SGA-D

C.S.S.B. 1344
By: Jackson
Natural Resources
4/16/2003
Committee Report (Substituted)

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

In 1995, the 74th Texas Legislature authorized a limited entry program for commercial bay and bait shrimping licenses. This state program was designed to reduce commercial shrimping in Texas bays. Since 1995, no new commercial bay and bait shrimping licenses have been available. The limited entry program for the commercial bay and bait shrimp fisheries provides financial incentive for commercial license holders who wish to consider getting out of the business. C.S.S.B. 1344 allows the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to increase the amount of money available for the license buyback program if additional money is available. This bill also allows TPWD to use donations, grants, or any other money appropriated by the legislature for the program and urges TPWD to actively solicit donations and apply for grants to accomplish the goals of the buyback programs.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 12A, Parks and Wildlife Code, by adding Section 12.009, as follows:

Sec. 12.009. FUNDING FOR LICENSE BUYBACK PROGRAMS. (a) Requires the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to increase the allocations of the license buyback programs under Sections 47.081, 77.119, and 78.111 by \$2 million for the fiscal biennium beginning September 1, 2003, if money is available.

(b) Authorizes TPWD to finance the increase in funding under Subsection (a) by donations, grants, or any money appropriated by the legislature or otherwise available for the programs. Authorizes TPWD to actively solicit donations and apply for grants to finance the increase.

(c) Provides that this section expires September 1, 2005.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2003.