HOUSE
RESEARCH
ORGANIZATION bill digest   5/12/2011

HB 1408
Flynn
(CSHB 1408 by Price)

SUBJECT: Combined hunting and fishing licenses for military personnel

COMMITTEE: Culture, Recreation, and Tourism — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 8 ayes — Guillen, Elkins, Deshotel, Dukes, Kuempel, Larson, Price, T. Smith

                  0 nays

                  1 absent — T. King

WITNESSES: For — None

                  Against — None

                  On — Robert Goodrich, Tom Newton, David Sinclair, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

BACKGROUND: Ch. 50 of the Parks and Wildlife Code requires the Parks and Wildlife Department to create combination licenses or license packages for hunting, fishing, and other activities. The department is authorized to set fees for the combined licenses or packages, which have to be lower than the fees for each individual license combined.

                  Sec. 42.012 classifies a disabled veteran as a person with a disability related to military service as defined by the Veterans' Administration. The person must have lost use of a lower extremity, have received a disability rating of at least 60 percent, and be receiving disability compensation.

DIGEST: CSHB 1408 would require the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission to waive the fee for the combination hunting and fishing license for disabled veterans as defined under Texas law. It also would waive the fee for Texas residents on active duty in the U.S. military, Texas Army or Air National Guard, or Texas State Guard as long as they had valid military identification cards.

                  CSHB 1408 would not apply to military retirees or their dependents unless they qualified under the bill.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2011.

NOTES: The substitute differs from the original by granting the fee waiver to disabled veterans for combined licenses or packages, instead of only for fishing licenses.

The fiscal note for CSHB 1408 anticipates a revenue loss of approximately $69,600 per fiscal year.