

SUBJECT: Authorizing a fee to create a georeferenced map for certain applications

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

VOTE: 9 ayes — K. King, Gervin-Hawkins, Burns, Clardy, Frullo, Israel, Krause, Martinez, C. Morales

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Kevin Davis, Deer Breeders Corporation; David Yeates, Texas Wildlife Association)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: John Silovsky, Texas Parks and Wildlife)

BACKGROUND: Parks and Wildlife Code ch. 43, subch. G governs permits to manage wildlife and exotic animals from aircraft.

Interested parties note that some landowners who are required to electronically map their land for exotic animals management from aircraft are experiencing technical difficulties. Some have called for authorizing the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission to offer a fee-based electronic mapping service for landowners.

DIGEST: HB 1631 would require the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission (TPWC) by rule to establish a fee in an amount reasonably necessary to cover the cost of converting a map prescribed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to a georeferenced map to be submitted with an application for a permit to manage wildlife and exotic animals from aircraft.

A “georeferenced map” would be defined as a map incorporating a system of geographic ground coordinates, including latitude and longitude and Universal Transverse Mercator coordinates.

An applicant for a permit would have to submit with the application either:

- a georeferenced map in a format prescribed by TPWD showing the exact boundaries of the property where the management of wildlife or exotic animals would be performed; or
- a map in a format prescribed by TPWD clearly indicating the location and boundaries of the property where the management of wildlife or exotic animals would be performed and the fee established by TPWC under the provisions of this bill.

An applicant would also have to submit a signed, written statement stating that the map or georeferenced map provided was true and correct.

TPWD would not be allowed to require an applicant to submit a map of a property for which a map had previously been submitted, and TPWD would be required to maintain a record of all maps submitted.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.