

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R4043 MI-F

S.B. 287
By: Brown
Natural Resources
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As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, Texas authorizes the Texas Parks and Wildlife capital account to be used for a few specific purposes, such as acquiring new land or facilities, developing and improving existing land or facilities, debt service on Texas park development bonds, and local park grants. In addition, the state parks currently suffer infrastructure problems due to an excess of deferred maintenance. This has led to a reduction in the enjoyment of park facilities, and in extreme cases, a hazardous situation for park visitors. S.B. 287 will give the Parks and Wildlife Commission another tool with which to address the infrastructure problems in state parks by expanding the uses of the capital account to include operational costs, and meeting the requirements for matching federal grants.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 287 adds approved projects to the Texas parks and wildlife capital account.

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 11.043(c), Parks and Wildlife Code, to authorize money in the Texas parks and wildlife capital account to be spent only for acquisition and development or operation of parks, fisheries, and wildlife projects that have been individually approved by the Parks and Wildlife Commission. Authorizes approved projects to include operational costs in association with any parks, fisheries, or wildlife projects; and meeting the requirements for providing matching money for any federal grants for parks, fisheries, or wildlife projects.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 1999.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.