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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Reviewers of Proposed Nonsubstantive Revision of the Parks and Wildlife Code

FROM: Joseph Ritchick
Chief Revisor, Parks and Wildlife Code Project

DATE: September 11, 2026

SUBJECT: Review of Proposed Nonsubstantive Revision of the Parks and Wildlife Code

REVIEW OF PROPOSED NONSUBSTANTIVE REVISIONS OF TEXAS STATUTES

The Texas Legislative Council encourages examination and review of proposed nonsubstantive revisions of Texas statutes by any interested person and appreciates all comments on the revisions. The council staff will review all comments and make any changes necessary to ensure that the code legislation is accurate and makes no substantive changes to the current law.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Codification Duties of the Texas Legislative Council

The Texas Legislative Council has a statutory duty under Section 323.007, Government Code, to carry out a complete nonsubstantive revision of Texas statutes. The purpose of the ongoing statutory revision process is to make the statutes "more accessible, understandable, and usable" without altering the sense, meaning, or effect of the law. This includes organizing the statutes into a more logical order and eliminating repealed, duplicative, expired, and other ineffective provisions. The council drafting attorneys use a numbering system that accommodates future expansion of the law. Additionally, the attorneys endeavor to improve the draftsmanship of the statutes, where practicable, with modern American English.

Parks and Wildlife Code Project

As part of its continuing statutory revision program, the council has engaged in a nonsubstantive revision of the Parks and Wildlife Code, which governs the administration and

operations of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; conservation and management of certain natural resources such as state parks, historic sites, and public lands and waterways; boating and water safety; conservation and management of land-based and aquatic wildlife and plants, including provisions related to hunting, fishing, and harvesting of wildlife and plants, as well as the protection of endangered species and regulation of exotic species; and enforcement of the provisions of the Parks and Wildlife Code. A more detailed outline of the proposed revised code follows this memo.

The proposed revision of the Parks and Wildlife Code, which consists of seven titles, is available for review on the council's Internet website, https://tlc.texas.gov.

REVIEWING INFORMATION

The preliminary drafts of the proposed chapters of the revision of the Parks and Wildlife Code are arranged to facilitate review. Each section of law in a proposed chapter provides the Revised Law, which is the text of the proposed code language to be enacted, followed by the Source Law, which is the text of the current law the drafting attorney has revised. When an explanation of either the revised law or source law is needed, a Revisor's Note follows. The substance of the source law for a code section is included in the revised law or the reason for its omission is explained in a revisor's note.

In reviewing the proposed revision, the reader should keep in mind the following guidelines:

(1) The Code Construction Act (Chapter 311, Government Code) applies to the code. That act sets out principles of statutory construction applicable to codes and provides definitions for commonly used terms.

(2) The council drafting attorneys use modern American English as practicable in revising the statutes. In addition, the present tense is preferred to the past or future tense, the active voice is preferred to the passive voice, and the singular is preferred to the plural.

(3) The revision is nonsubstantive. Accordingly, the council staff is not authorized to improve or otherwise change the substance of the current law. The sole purpose of the project is to compile the law related to the subject matter, organize it in a logical fashion, and rewrite it without altering its meaning or legal effect. If the source law for a code provision is ambiguous and the ambiguity cannot be resolved without substantive effect, the ambiguity is preserved. In addition, the code project does not attempt to reflect court decisions that have not been approved by the Texas court of last resort or the possible effect of recent federal legislation.

(4) If the bill containing the proposed revision is enacted by the 90th Legislature, the effective date of the revised provisions will be April 1, 2029.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The council welcomes comments and questions from interested parties after their review of the proposed chapters and is happy to address any concerns that arise. After considering comments and suggestions, the council will incorporate suggested changes as appropriate.

I am the project manager for this revision and can be reached by telephone at (512) 463-1151 or by e-mail at Joseph.Ritchick@tlc.texas.gov. Please contact me directly with your comments regarding the revision and any questions you have. To ensure that the council is able to incorporate any necessary changes in a timely manner, please provide comments not later than Monday, November 30, 2026.

PROPOSED OUTLINE OF REVISED PARKS AND WILDLIFE CODE

Title 1. General Provisions
Title 2. Parks and Wildlife Administration
- Subtitle A. Organization of Parks and Wildlife Department
- Subtitle B. General Powers and Duties of Commission and Department
- Subtitle C. Management and Conservation Plans and Programs
- Subtitle Z. Enforcement

Title 3. Parks and Other Public Areas
- Subtitle A. General Provisions
- Subtitle B. Specific State Parks
- Subtitle C. Specific State Public Sites
- Subtitle D. Specific National Parks and National Seashores

Title 4. Water Safety
- Subtitle A. General Provisions
- Subtitle B. Identification and Ownership of Vessels and Outboard Motors
- Subtitle C. Boating Equipment and Operation
- Subtitle D. Regulation of Certain Vessels and Floating Structures
- Subtitle Y. Miscellaneous Provisions
- Subtitle Z. Water Safety Enforcement Provisions

Title 5. Wildlife and Plant Management and Conservation
- Subtitle A. General Provisions
- Subtitle B. General Wildlife Provisions
- Subtitle C. Hunting and Fishing
- Subtitle D. Licenses, Permits, and Stamps
- Subtitle E. Provisions Related to Specific Types of Land-Based Wildlife
- Subtitle F. Provisions Related to Specific Types of Aquatic Wildlife
- Subtitle G. Oysters
- Subtitle H. Plants
- Subtitle I. Marl, Sand, Gravel, and Mudshell

Subtitle J. Wildlife Management and Conservation Areas
Subtitle Z. General Enforcement Provisions
Title 6. Compacts
Title 7. Local and Special Laws
Subtitle A. Provisions Affecting Localities
Subtitle Z. Enforcement

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