

AN ACT

relating to the trapping and transport of surplus white-tailed deer.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subsections (a) through (h) and (k), Section 43.0612, Parks and Wildlife Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) In this section:

(1) "Property[~~, "property~~] owners' association" has the meaning assigned by Section 202.001, Property Code.

(2) "Qualified individual" means an individual who has a wildlife management plan approved by the department.

(b) The department may issue to a qualified individual, a political subdivision, or a property owners' association a permit authorizing the trapping and transporting of surplus white-tailed deer found on the property owned by the qualified individual or within the boundaries of the political subdivision or the geographic area in which property subject to the property owners' association is located.

(c) Not later than the 30th day before the date of the first planned trapping and transporting of white-tailed deer, a qualified individual, a political subdivision, or a property owners' association shall file with the department an application showing that an overpopulation of white-tailed deer exists on [~~within~~] the property owned by the qualified individual or within the boundaries of the political subdivision or the geographic area in which property subject to the property owners' association is located. If the department issues a permit to a requesting qualified individual, political subdivision, or property owners' association, the permit shall contain specific instructions detailing the location to which the trapped white-tailed deer are to be

transported or transplanted.

(d) After receipt of an application, the department may issue to the qualified individual, political subdivision, or property owners' association a permit specifying:

(1) the location to which trapped white-tailed deer must be transported; and

(2) the purpose for which the trapped deer are to be used.

(e) The department may deny a qualified individual, a political subdivision, or a property owners' association a permit if no suitable destination for the trapped white-tailed deer exists.

(f) A qualified individual, a political subdivision, or a property owners' association trapping and transporting white-tailed deer under this section must make reasonable efforts to ensure:

(1) safe and humane handling of trapped white-tailed deer; and

(2) minimization of human health and safety hazards in every phase of the trapping and transporting of white-tailed deer.

(g) A permit issued under this section may authorize a qualified individual, a political subdivision, or a property owners' association to trap and transport white-tailed deer only between October 1 of a year and March 31 of the following year, unless white-tailed deer found on the property owned by the qualified individual or within the boundaries of ~~the~~ the political subdivision or ~~the~~ the geographic area in which property subject to the property owners' association is located pose a threat to human health or safety, in which case the provision of Subsection (e) does not apply and a permit may authorize the qualified individual, political subdivision, or property owners' association to trap and transport white-tailed deer at any time of the year.

(h) A permit issued under this section does not entitle a

person to take, trap, or possess white-tailed deer found on any privately owned land without the landowner's written permission, unless the permit holder is the landowner.

(k) The commission may adopt rules necessary for the implementation of this chapter, including rules which enhance the opportunity to relocate overpopulation of urban deer and relating to required notification, record-keeping, permit conditions, and the disposition of trapped white-tailed deer. The commission shall adopt rules for determining the circumstances under which a qualified individual, political subdivision, or property owners' association may obtain a permit issued under this section.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 498 passed the Senate on April 7, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendments on May 27, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 498 passed the House, with amendments, on May 25, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 0, one present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor