

- SUBJECT:** Identifying breeder deer by using microchip implants
- COMMITTEE:** Culture, Recreation and Tourism — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 6 ayes — Frullo, Faircloth, Fallon, Gervin-Hawkins, Krause, Martinez
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — D. Bonnen
- WITNESSES:** For — John Wade, Microchip Systems ID; Hugo Berlanga, Bob Price, and Patrick Tarlton, Texas Deer Association; Marty Berry; Mark Hubbard; (*Registered, but did not testify* Travis Lowe, American Cervid Alliance; Gib Lewis and Charly Seale, Exotic Wildlife Association; Omar Berlanga, Texas Deer Association; and seven individuals)
- Against — David Sinclair, Game Warden Peace Officers Association; Don Steinbach, Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society; Tom Vandivier, Texas Wildlife Association; Matthew Schnupp, Texas Wildlife Association, King Ranch, Inc.; John Shepperd, Texas Foundation for Conservation, Texas Coalition for Conservation; and five individuals; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Katherine Romans, Hill Country Alliance; Romey Swanson, Hill Country Conservancy; Myron Hess, National Wildlife Federation; Ken Kramer, Sierra Club - Lone Star Chapter; Clinton Faas, Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Texas Wildlife Association; Zach Brady, Texas Coalition for Conservation; Susan Petersen, Texas Conservation Alliance; Elizabeth Doyel, Texas League of Conservation Voters; J. David Anderson, Marko Barrett, Whitney Klenzendorf, Bill Knolle, James Thompson, and David Yeates, Texas Wildlife Association; and nine individuals)
- On — Clayton Wolf, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Andy Schwartz, Texas Animal Health Commission; Kevin Davis, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department)
- BACKGROUND:** Under Parks and Wildlife Code, sec. 43.3561, breeder deer held in a

permitted deer breeding facility must be identified by placing on them a durable identification tag with a unique alphanumeric number assigned by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. This tagging must be done by March 31 of the year following the year a breeder deer is born.

Sec. 43.357 outlines the privileges afforded to holders of a deer breeder's permit. A deer breeder may capture a breeder deer held in a permitted facility for certain purposes, such as tagging the deer. This section authorizes the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission to make regulations related to permitted deer breeding.

DIGEST:

CSHB 2855 would allow breeder deer held in a permitted deer breeding facility to be identified by a microchip that was recognized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to identify animals as an alternative to using a durable identification tag. Implanting a microchip in a breeder deer would be an acceptable purpose for capturing a deer in a permitted deer breeding facility.

The bill would require a deer breeder that used a microchip for the identification of breeder deer to make available a microchip reader for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Animal Health Commission.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission could make regulations governing the use of the microchip implants for the purpose of identifying breeder deer.

The bill would take effect September, 1, 2017.

NOTES:

A companion bill, SB 1720 by Estes, was scheduled for a public hearing of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs on May 8.