

SUBJECT: Establishing aquaculture operations as a form of agriculture

COMMITTEE: Agriculture & Livestock — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 9 ayes — Cain, Anderson, Bernal, Goodwin, Cody Harris, Kitzman, Rosenthal, Thimesch, Wilson

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Fritz Jaenike, Texas Aquaculture Association; John Jones, Texas Aquaculture Association (*Registered, but did not testify*: Shane Bonnot, Coastal Conservation Association; Charlie Leal, Texas Farm Bureau; Joey Park, Texas Wildlife Association)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised over ambiguity in current law regarding whether aquaculture is considered an agricultural operation.

DIGEST: CSHB 2271 would recognize aquaculture as a type of agriculture and award it the same rights, privileges, and protections as any other type of agricultural operation.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2023.