

SUBJECT: Creating a study on the removal of carrizo cane at the Texas border

COMMITTEE: Agriculture & Livestock — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 7 ayes — Cain, Anderson, Goodwin, Cody Harris, Rosenthal, Thimesch, Wilson

0 nays

2 absent — Bernal, Kitzman

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Charles Maley, South Texans Property Rights Association)

Against — None

On — Bryan Gentsch, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (*Registered, but did not testify*: John Foster, Johnny Oswald, State Soil and Water Conservation Board)

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that removal of carrizo cane, a non-native plant species of giant reed commonly found along the Rio Grande, could aid law enforcement at the Texas-Mexico border and increase the availability of drinking and irrigation water for border communities.

DIGEST: HB 2568 would require the State Soil and Water Conservation Board to conduct a study the extent of the growth of carrizo cane along the Rio Grande. In conducting the study, the board would determine:

- the acreage of carrizo cane remaining along the Rio Grande;
- the amount of water consumed by carrizo cane along the Rio Grande; and
- the program's cost of eliminating the carrizo cane identified in the study.

The board would be required to report the results of the study and any

recommendations to the governor, lieutenant governor, the speaker of the House, and standing committees of both houses with jurisdiction over natural resources by January 1st, 2025. The provisions of the bill would expire February 1, 2025.

This bill would take effect September 1, 2023.

NOTES:

The Legislative Budget Board estimates that the bill would have a negative impact of \$1,481,349 through the biennium.