

84th Legislative Session-End of Session Summary

Prepared by Evelyn L. Merz, Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club



Bill No. **Author** **Companion Bill** **Final Status** **Sierra Club Position** **Description**

WILDLIFE ISSUES

HB 1579	Lucio III	None	Passed H & S and sent to Governor	FAVOR	Creates criminal offense-Sale and purchase of shark fins	😊
HB 1925	Geren	SB 1597-Kolkhorst	Passed H & S and sent to Governor	FAVOR	Transfer Tx Farm & Ranchlands Conservation Program to TPWD from General Land Office	😊
HB 3057	Murr	None	Passed House with substitute bill acceptable & died in Senate Ag., Water, & Rural Affairs without hearing	AGAINST changed to FAVOR	Creation of a grant program for the purpose of controlling rodents and predatory animals	Neutral
SJR 22	Creighton	HJR 61-Ashby	Passed H & S, Filed with Secy of State-Will be on Nov. ballot	AGAINST since requested changes were not made	Constitutional amendment-Right to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife	😞

STATE PARK ISSUES

HB 158	Larson	SB 248-Estes & HB 82-Guillen & 1078	Signed by Governor-Effective 9/1/2015	FAVOR	Allocation of Sporting Goods Sales Tax (SGST) (Removes Subsection c-1 of Tax Code 151.801 that limited amount comptroller could credit from SGST)	😊
SB 1366	Kolkhorst	HB 300-Gonzales, L.	Signed by Governor-Effective 9/1/2015	FAVOR	SGST allocation to TPWD programs (Removes all % allocations to specific TPWD accounts)	😊
HJR 33	Guillen	SJR 18-Estes & 47 & HJR 39 Identical	Died in House Ways & Means Comm	FAVOR	Constitutional amendment-Automatic Appropriation SGST	😞
SJR 18	Estes	SJR 47 & HJR 33-Guillen & 39 Identical	Never rec'd hearing in Senate Finance	FAVOR	Constitutional amendment-Automatic Appropriation SGST	😞

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STATE PARK ISSUES, continued

SB 228	Creighton	HB 849-Paddie SEE BELOW	2 wkends reduced to 1-Died in House Ways & Means	AGAINST	State tax-free weekends for firearms & hunting supplies	😊
HB 849	Paddie	SB 228-Creighton SEE ABOVE	Died in Senate Finance Comm	AGAINST	State tax-free weekends for firearms & hunting supplies	😊

RECYCLING

HB 2425	Rodrguez, E.	SB 1450-Ellis	Left pending in Environmental Regulation Comm after hearing	FAVOR	Beverage container recycling incentives	😞
HB 3153	Anderson	None	Left pending in Environmental Regulation Comm after hearing	FAVOR	Establish program to recycle batteries	😞

WATER

HB 30	Larson	None	Revised (acceptable) version passed H & S and sent to Governor; funds provided in the appropriations bill for brackish GW studies	AGAINST as filed; NEUTRAL as revised	As FILED - Restricted authority of ground water districts to regulate withdrawal of brackish GW; Bill REVISED primarily to just require study of brackish aquifers	😊
HB 928	Guillen	SB 329-Hinojosa & SB 1627-Lucio	House adopted conf report but Senate sponsor withdrew it due to controversial amendment	FAVOR	Water Conservation Advisory Council required to monitor & develop strategies for drought- BMP for drought	😞
HB 1232	Lucio III	SB 1409-Estes	Signed by the Governor & effective immediately	FAVOR	Tx. Water Development Bd. to study hydrology and geology of aquifers	😊

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WATER, continued

HB 1902	Howard	None	Passed H & S and sent to Governor	FAVOR	TCEQ to set guidelines for use of gray water and alternative onsite water	😊
HB 1919	Phillips	None	Passed H & S and sent to Governor-amendments NOT sufficient	NEUTRAL-Needs revision	Excludes political subdivisions & municipal utilities from prohibition against releasing invasive fish/shellfish into public waters	😞
HB 2570	Johnson	None	House Natural Resources Comm never held public hearing	FAVOR	Water planners to include climate /precipitation forecasts into water plans	😞
HB 3298	Larson	SB 1907-Perry SEE BELOW	Passed House & died in Senate Ag, Water, & Rural Affairs Comm	AGAINST	Water Grid Bill/GRIDZILLA - Study state-wide market and conveyance network for water	😊
SB 521	Fraser et al	None	Passed Senate but not reached on House calendar on last day for bills to pass	AGAINST	Allowed TCEQ to suspend water mgmt plan, incl. stream flows, for too long a time upon TCEQ declaration of emergency	😊
SB 551	Seliger	None	Passed H & S and sent to Governor	FAVOR	State Water Conservation Advisory Council to submit recommendations to Legislature to advance water conservation	😊
SB 1356	Hinojosa	HB 2492-Darby	Passed H & S and sent to Governor	FAVOR	Sales tax holiday on Watersense products on Memorial Day Weekend	😊
SB 1907	Perry	HB 3298-Larson SEE ABOVE	Did not move from Senate Intent Calendar to Senate Floor	AGAINST	Water Grid Bill/GRIDZILLA - Study state-wide market and conveyance network for water	😊

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ENERGY

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HB 40	Darby	SB 1165-Fraser	Signed by Governor 5/18/2015-Effective immediately	AGAINST	Exclusive regulation of O&G ops by state-preemption of local regulation	☹
HB 539	King	None	Left pending in House Energy Resources Comm after hearing	AGAINST	Local entity proposing to regulate O&G activity required to compensate state for estimated lost revenue	☺
HB 1101	Turner, Sy.	None	Sent to Governor	FAVOR	Requires System Benefit Fund to be used for its intended purpose.	☺
HB 1331	King, P.	None	Signed by Governor	AGAINST, changed to NEUTRAL	Allows recycling of drilling wastes by 3rd party and reduced liability of generator if certain standards are met	☺
HB 1535	Frullo	None	Sent to Governor	AGAINST, changed to NEUTRAL	Allows for some cost-recovery by non-ERCOT utilites for certain expenses - allowance of cost-recovery of generation removed	☺
HB 1633	Romero	None	Sent to Governor	FAVOR	Requires notification to TxDOT for oil and gas drilling proposed within an easement	☺
HB 1736	Villalba	SB 929-Fraser	Signed by Governor	AGAINST, changed to NEUTRAL	Original bill delayed new building energy code for 6 years; final bill adopts 2015 IRC for homebuilders in 2016 but allows flexibility on energy code	☺

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ENERGY, continued

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HB 2392	Anchia	None	Passed House & Senate Business & Commerce Comm-Died on Senate Intent Calendar	FAVOR	Establish residential energy efficiency loan program	☹️
HB 2769	Rodriguez, E	None	Failed vote on House floor	FAVOR	Extends pilot program 2 yrs allowing State Energy Conservation Office to make energy efficiency & renewable energy loans to non-profits	☹️
HB 3187	Keffer	None	Passed H & S and sent to Governor	FAVOR	Authorizes water conservation & energy efficiency loan programs for commercial & industrial bldgs in counties & cities	😊
SB 931	Fraser	None	Passed Senate & never heard in House State Affairs Comm	AGAINST	Does away with renewable energy portfolio standard & allows electric providers to purchase energy credits	😊
SB 991	Rodriguez, J.	None	Sent to Governor	FAVOR	Requires General Land Office & TX Water Development Board to study use of solar & wind power to develop brackish groundwater.	😊

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PUBLIC INTEREST

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HB 1113	Clardy	SB 941-Creighton	Never put on House calendar after reported by House Environmental Regulation	AGAINST	Standard of review for a determination of standing in TCEQ contested case hearing	😊
HB 1247	Smith	None	Never put on House calendar after reported by House Environmental Regulation	AGAINST	Presumption that draft permit for contested case prepared by TCEQ meets federal & state requirements and protects health, safety, & environment	😊
HB 1794	Geren	NONE	Sent to Governor	AGAINST	Limits civil penalties in environmental enforcement cases brought by counties.	😞
HB 2191	Anchia	NONE	Left pending in Energy Resources	FAVOR	Would have required RRC to have a searchable database on complaints and enforcement data	😞
HB 3123	Price	SB 218-Nelson	Passed H& S with only repeal of sunset review of Port of Houston Authority still in bill, House refused to agree to Conf Comm changes	AGAINST Senate & conference comm amendments	Conference Committee changed sunset review of RRC from 2017 to 2023; Repealed sunset review of Port of Houston Authority; extended review dates of others	😊 😞
SB 109	Taylor, V.	HB 201-Leach	Left pending in Senate Agriculture, Water, & Rural Affairs Comm	AGAINST	Would set unrealistic schedule for TCEQ to process surface water rights applications; Would limit or prevent citizen participation in contested case	😊
SB 709	Fraser	HB 1868-Morrison	Signed by Governor-Effective 9/1/2015	AGAINST	Limits public participation through transfer of burden of proof to protesting parties, short hearing schedule, limits on issues considered	😞