



Representative

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LSG Floor Report For Postponed Business- Thursday, April 13, 2017

Bill	Caption	Committee	Analysis & Evaluation	Recommendation
<p>HB 3451 By: Stucky / González, Mary / Ashby / Springer / Cyrier / et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the study and approval of lethal pesticides for feral hog control.</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>In February 2017, the Texas Department of Agriculture approved an emergency rule allowing for the use of Warfarin in the feral hog abatement program. There are legitimate concerns about the lack of publicly available studies that assess the public health and environmental impacts of Warfarin use for feral hog control. CSHB 3451 amends the Agriculture Code by stipulating that the department may not approve or allow for use of a lethal pesticide, including Warfarin, for feral hog abatement unless a scientific study is conducted to evaluate the potential risks associated with use of that pesticide. This bill has no significant fiscal impact, as the study will be conducted using existing resources within the department. The bill stipulates that this study must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include controlled field trials • Examine the potential of Warfarin or the legal pesticide in question for successful feral hog abatement • Assess negative impacts to wildlife, agriculture, or property owners because of Warfarin use • Assess environmental consequences associated with Warfarin use • Solicit both public and stakeholder input in relation to the study as appropriate • Be conducted by a state agency in conjunction with an institution of higher education to ensure study validity <p>According to the Sierra Club, risks associated with Warfarin use include human poisoning should someone unintentionally eat Warfarin laced meat, pain and suffering for the hogs who ingest Warfarin, risk of death to animals who feed on carcasses of hogs who have ingested Warfarin, and negative bioaccumulation effects. While many cite Australia’s effective use of Warfarin for feral hog abatement as justification for its use in Texas, it is important to note that Australia has discontinued the use of Warfarin in their hog abatement practices. According to a study conducted by the Australian Institution of Medical and Veterinary Science, the Australian government chose to discontinue the use of warfarin because it creates legitimate animal welfare concerns and is “inhumane and unacceptable” for commercial use. These considerations combined with potential environmental and bioaccumulation effects warrant a scientific study by the State before the use of Warfarin is widely implemented. It is also important to ensure that while the study is being conducted, the Department of Agriculture continues to register and track individuals who purchase Warfarin to ensure accountability and oversight.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated By: Tyler Anderson 210-382-4295 Tyler@Texaslsg.org</p>

