

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	6 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Clem, Dingfelder, Macpherson, Maurer, Smith P., Roblan
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Boquist
Prepared By:	Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs the State Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules prohibiting the use of the World Wide Web, or other Internet protocols or broadcast or closed circuit media to remotely control a weapon for the purpose of hunting any game bird, wildlife, game mammal or other mammal. Requires consultation with the Department of Agriculture prior to adopting rules. Authorizes Commission to exempt the Department of Fish and Wildlife or agents of the department from the prohibition. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- State Fish and Wildlife Commission rulemaking
- Laws in other states

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: In 2004, a Texas-based company (Live-Shot) began offering a web-based shooting experience where subscribers could access remote-controlled rifles for target practice or hunting. The subscriber, having paid a fee, would access a secure website via computer and be given limited control of a rifle, allowing them to fire the weapon at a choice of reactive targets. By 2005, only one person had shot an animal through Live-Shot's remote internet hunting system. The Texas Legislative Assembly banned the practice soon after that occurrence.

Senate Bill 490-A requires the Fish and Wildlife Commission, following consultation with the Department of Agriculture, to adopt rules prohibiting the use of the Internet or closed circuit media to remotely control a weapon for the purpose of hunting or taking any game animal. The measure authorizes an exemption for the Department of Fish and Wildlife from this prohibition.