

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Bates, Beyer, Prozanski, Avakian
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Atkinson
Prepared By:	Sue Marshall, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs the State Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules prohibiting the use of Internet or closed circuit media to remotely control a weapon for the purpose of hunting or taking any game bird, wildlife, game mammal or other mammal. Declares an emergency and is effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Circumstances that might warrant department's use of internet technology
- Unforeseen future applications of the technology and the need for it to be regulated

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Requires the State Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules prohibiting the use of the internet to remotely control a weapon for the purpose of hunting. Prohibits public agencies other than the State Department of Fish and Wildlife from internet hunting rules.

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 authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), in 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 provides an exemption for ODFW from this prohibition.