

## CHAPTER 109

## S.B. No. 279

An Act relating to the regulation of fraud in freshwater fishing tournaments; providing penalties; adding Section 66.119 to Subchapter B, Chapter 66, Parks and Wildlife Code.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

**SECTION 1.** Subchapter B, Chapter 66, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by adding Section 66.119 to read as follows:

*“Section 66.119. FRAUD IN FRESHWATER FISHING TOURNAMENTS. (a) In this section, ‘fishing tournament’ means a contest in which a prize is to be awarded to one or more participants in the contest based on the weight, length, number, or type of freshwater fish caught by the participants or based on any other criteria applicable to the fish caught.*

*“(b) A person commits an offense if, with intent to affect the outcome of a fishing tournament:*

*“(1) the person provides, offers to provide, sells, or offers to sell a fish to a participant in the tournament for the purpose of representing that the fish was caught by the participant in the course of the tournament;*

*“(2) the person, as a participant in the tournament, accepts or agrees to accept a fish from another person for the purpose of representing that the fish was caught by the participant in the course of the tournament; or*

*“(3) the person, as a participant in the tournament, represents that a fish was caught by the person in the course of the tournament when in fact the fish was not caught by that person or the fish was not caught in the course of that tournament.*

*“(c) A person commits an offense if the person sponsors or conducts a fishing tournament and knows of the occurrence in the tournament of activity prohibited by Subsection (b) of this section and does not immediately notify a law enforcement officer commissioned by the director of its occurrence.*

*“(d) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor, except that if the offense occurred during a tournament in which any prize or combination of prizes to be awarded for any one category for which an award is given, whether the prize or prizes are to an individual or a team, is worth \$10,000 or more in money or goods, the offense is a felony of the third degree.”*

**SECTION 2.** This Act takes effect September 1, 1985.

**SECTION 3.** The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed the Senate on April 1, 1985, by a viva-voce vote; Senate concurred in House amendment on May 7, 1985, by a viva-voce vote; passed the House, with amendment, on May 2, 1985, by a non-record vote.

Approved: May 17, 1985

Effective: September 1, 1985