

CHAPTER 245

H.B. No. 1195

AN ACT

relating to the manner of payment of certain rewards under the operation game thief program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 12.201, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 12.201. CREATION OF FUND. The department may accept and deposit in a special fund outside the state treasury, called the operation game thief fund, donations from any person made for purposes of this subchapter. Funds deposited in the operation game thief fund may be used only for the maintenance of that fund. The Operation Game Thief Committee shall adopt rules for the implementation of the operation game thief program and maintenance of the operation game thief ~~[that]~~ fund.

SECTION 2. Section 12.202(a), Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The director shall appoint an Operation Game Thief Committee composed of nine members to administer the operation game thief fund and to make reward payments from that fund ~~[as provided by Section 12.204 of this code]~~. The director shall appoint persons who are not employees of the department and who have a demonstrated interest in game and fish conservation. The director may consider the recommendations or nominations of any club or association. The director shall designate one of the members as chairman of

the committee. The director or an employee designated by the director for that purpose shall serve as secretary to the committee. A member of the committee serves without compensation.

SECTION 3. Section 12.203(b), Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The committee may consider ~~[only]~~ claims made *at any time before its* ~~[in the six-month period preceding the]~~ meeting, *but consideration is limited to claims that relate to final convictions* ~~[and these claims may relate only to convictions obtained during that period].~~

SECTION 4. Section 12.204, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 12.204. REWARDS; PAYMENTS. ~~[At each meeting, the committee shall determine which claimants are to be granted rewards, specify the amount of each reward, and direct the payment of the rewards from the operation game thief fund.]~~ No amount in excess of that on deposit in the operation game thief fund is payable as a reward under this section. No reward may be granted to a person, or an immediate family member of a person, who is a peace officer, deputy game warden, prosecutor, employee of the department, or member of the judiciary.

SECTION 5. 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, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on April 15, 1987, by the following vote: Yeas 136, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting. Passed by the Senate on May 14, 1987, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Approved May 28, 1987.

Effective May 28, 1987.