

1-1 By: Leo Wilson, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Creighton) H.B. No. 654  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 30, 2025;  
 1-3 May 1, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Water,  
 1-4 Agriculture and Rural Affairs; May 23, 2025, reported favorably by  
 1-5 the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 23, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10			X	
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14			X	
1-15	X			
1-16	X			

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to the dismissal of a criminal charge related to the  
 1-20 illegal hunting of certain deer; authorizing fees.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the Asp-Morgan Act.

1-23 SECTION 2. Subchapter F, Chapter 61, Parks and Wildlife  
 1-24 Code, is amended by adding Section 61.902 to read as follows:

1-25 Sec. 61.902. DISMISSAL OF CERTAIN CHARGES RELATED TO  
 1-26 PROHIBITED HUNTING ON COMPLETION OF HUNTER EDUCATION COURSE. (a)  
 1-27 In this section, "hunter education course" means a hunter education  
 1-28 course established under Section 62.014.

1-29 (b) This section applies only to an alleged offense for the  
 1-30 violation of a provision of this code, or a proclamation or  
 1-31 regulation of the commission issued under the authority of this  
 1-32 code, that prohibits the hunting of certain mule deer or  
 1-33 white-tailed deer based on the inside or outside spread measurement  
 1-34 of the deer's antlers, where the violation is based on a difference  
 1-35 of one inch or less from the spread measurement prescribed by the  
 1-36 provision.

1-37 (c) A court having proper jurisdiction of an offense to  
 1-38 which this section applies may, without entering an adjudication of  
 1-39 guilt, defer proceedings against a defendant for a period not to  
 1-40 exceed 180 days if the defendant:

1-41 (1) reported the defendant's commission of the offense  
 1-42 to a game warden before the defendant left the location where the  
 1-43 conduct occurred and was subsequently charged with the offense;

1-44 (2) did not retain possession of the deer carcass or  
 1-45 otherwise disposed of the carcass in the manner prescribed by the  
 1-46 department;

1-47 (3) has not previously:

1-48 (A) been convicted of an offense to which this  
 1-49 section applies; or

1-50 (B) had a charge dismissed under this section;

1-51 (4) pleads nolo contendere or guilty to the offense in  
 1-52 open court; and

1-53 (5) presents to the court an oral or written request to  
 1-54 attend a hunter education course.

1-55 (d) The court shall dismiss a defendant's charge that the  
 1-56 court deferred under Subsection (c) if the defendant presents  
 1-57 satisfactory evidence that the defendant:

1-58 (1) has successfully completed the hunter education  
 1-59 course before the last day of the deferral period; and

1-60 (2) during the deferral period, has not violated a  
 1-61 provision of this code or a proclamation or regulation of the

2-1 commission issued under the authority of this code.

2-2 (e) The court shall enter an adjudication of guilt and  
2-3 impose the penalty for the offense if the defendant fails to satisfy  
2-4 the conditions for dismissal of the charge described by Subsection  
2-5 (d).

2-6 (f) Notwithstanding any other law, a charge dismissed under  
2-7 this section may not be:

2-8 (1) considered a conviction for the purposes of any  
2-9 disqualifications or disabilities imposed by this code or other law  
2-10 for conviction of an offense; or

2-11 (2) used as grounds for denying issuance of a  
2-12 professional or occupational license or certificate to, or  
2-13 suspending or revoking the professional or occupational license or  
2-14 certificate of, the defendant otherwise entitled to or qualified  
2-15 for the license or certificate.

2-16 (g) A court may transfer a case in which proceedings have  
2-17 been deferred under this section to a different court if that court  
2-18 consents to the transfer and has jurisdiction over the case.

2-19 (h) In addition to court costs and fees authorized or  
2-20 imposed by a law of this state and applicable to the offense, the  
2-21 court may require a defendant who requests a hunter education  
2-22 course to pay a reimbursement fee in an amount not to exceed \$10 to  
2-23 cover the costs of administering this section. Money collected by  
2-24 the court shall be deposited in the county treasury of the county in  
2-25 which the court is located.

2-26 (i) In addition to the reimbursement fee authorized by  
2-27 Subsection (h), the court may require a defendant who requests a  
2-28 hunter education course to pay a \$10 reimbursement fee to cover the  
2-29 course provider's cost for performing duties under this section.  
2-30 The court shall pay the fee to the course provider, and the course  
2-31 provider must account to the court for the receipt and disbursal of  
2-32 the fee.

2-33 (j) A defendant who pays a fee under Subsection (h) or (i) is  
2-34 not entitled to a refund of the fee, regardless of whether the  
2-35 defendant successfully completes the hunter education course.

2-36 (k) A court may not require an indigent defendant for whom  
2-37 proceedings are deferred under this section to pay a reimbursement  
2-38 fee described by this section.

2-39 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
2-40 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.  
2-41 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is  
2-42 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,  
2-43 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For  
2-44 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the  
2-45 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred  
2-46 before that date.

2-47 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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