



RYAN GUILLEN
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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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GUILLEN BILL PROTECTS LANDOWNERS FROM FALLING ROCK CLIMBERS

Bill Preventing Unfair Consequences Gets a Hearing

AUSTIN - Texas State Representative Ryan Guillen (D-Rural South Texas) is working to pass HB 487, a bill to provide liability immunity to landowners when guests on their land participate in activities like rock climbing and are injured. The first public hearing on HB 487 was held on **Tuesday, March 28**.

"Rock climbing is an increasingly popular recreational pastime, yet it is not included in the definition of recreational activity in current Texas law," Guillen said. "Owners of rock climbing land are therefore liable for inexperienced climbers."

Current Texas law already protects property owners from a long and varied list of recreational activities - ranging from hunting and fishing to dog walking. These activities all pose some risk to the person choosing to engage in them, and he strongly believes that such risks should not be passed along to landowners.

"It's a clear oversight that the legislature has not defined rock climbing as a recreational activity in previous legislation defining landowner liability, as it has proven to be among the riskier of recreational activities," Guillen said. HB 487 encourages more landowners to allow rock climbing on their property by reducing the risk from those who participate and are injured.

"It's unreasonable to hold land owners responsible for the risks taken by rock climbers on their land," said Guillen. "I applaud the challenges rock climbers embrace as they develop skills and self-confidence that few other activities can provide, but we must also protect landowners from penalties for allowing the activity."

HB 487 was considered in the Licensing and Administrative Procedures Committee and is waiting to be scheduled to be considered before the full House. Representative Guillen is dedicated to protecting landowners and ensuring the safety of Texans as they enjoy whatever their recreational activity of choice may be.

Representative Ryan Guillen serves ten rural South Texas counties in the Texas House of Representatives, including Atascosa, Brooks, Duval, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, La Salle, Live Oak, McMullen, Starr, and Willacy.

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