

AN ACT

relating to the possession and transportation of certain nonindigenous snakes; increasing a criminal penalty.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 43.851(a), Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The commission by rule shall establish permits that allow permit holders to possess or transport in this state a live nonindigenous snake, including a hybrid of any kind, that is:

(1) venomous [~~snake~~]; or

(2) a constrictor that is one of the following:

(A) African rock python, *Python sebae*;

(B) Asiatic rock python, *Python molurus*;

(C) Burmese python, *Python bivittatus*;

(D) green anaconda, *Eunectes murinus*;

(E) [~~(D)~~] reticulated python, *Python*

reticulatus; or

(F) [~~(E)~~] southern African python, *Python*

natalensis.

SECTION 2. Section 43.856, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) or (c), a person who violates this subchapter or a rule adopted under this

1 subchapter commits an offense that is a Class C Parks and Wildlife
2 Code misdemeanor.

3 (c) If it is shown at the trial of the defendant for a
4 violation of this subchapter or a rule adopted under this
5 subchapter that the defendant has engaged in a commercial activity
6 without holding a required permit and the defendant has been
7 previously convicted of a violation of this subchapter or a rule
8 adopted under this subchapter, on conviction the defendant shall be
9 punished for a Class B Parks and Wildlife Code misdemeanor.

10 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2326 was passed by the House on April 16, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 141, Nays 4, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2326 on May 24, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 117, Nays 28, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2326 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 19, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor