

By: Frullo

H.B. No. 2326

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 (C) Burmese python, *Python bivittatus*;

15 (D) green anaconda, *Eunectes murinus*;

16 (E) [~~(D)~~] reticulated python, *Python*
17 *reticulatus*; or

18 (F) [~~(E)~~] southern African python, *Python*
19 *natalensis*.

20 SECTION 2. Section 43.853, Parks and Wildlife Code, is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 Sec. 43.853. RELEASE FROM CAPTIVITY. A person may not
23 intentionally, knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence
24 release or allow the release from captivity of a nonindigenous

1 snake [~~covered by this subchapter~~].

2 SECTION 3. Section 43.856, Parks and Wildlife Code, is
3 amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (c) to
4 read as follows:

5 (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) or (c), a person
6 who violates this subchapter or a rule adopted under this
7 subchapter commits an offense that is a Class C Parks and Wildlife
8 Code misdemeanor.

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

16 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.