

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

H.B. 641  
By: Kolkhorst (Armbrister)  
Administration  
4/23/2003  
Engrossed

### **DIGEST AND PURPOSE**

Currently, the Office of General Counsel of the Texas Department of Health recognizes bison as exotic animals under the Texas Meat and Poultry Inspection Act's definition of exotic animals. H.B. 641 establishes a policy that recognizes bison as wild, indigenous animals at the Texas Department of Agriculture. This bill also adds bison to the definition of "livestock."

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 2, Agriculture Code, by adding Section 2.005, as follows:

Sec. 2.005. POLICY: BISON. Requires the agriculture policy of this state to recognize that bison are wild animals indigenous to this state, are distinct from cattle, livestock, exotic livestock, and game animals, and may be raised and used for commercial purposes or for preserving the bison species.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 433.003(11), Health and Safety Code, to add bison to the definition of "livestock."

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2003.