

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

C.S.H.B. 641  
By: Kolkhorst  
Agriculture & Livestock  
Committee Report (Substituted)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

The Agriculture Code defines “exotic livestock” as grass-eating or plant-eating, single-hooved or cloven-hooved mammals that are not indigenous to this state and are known as ungulates, including animals from the swine, horse, tapir, rhinoceros, elephant, deer, and antelope families. While bison are a wild, cloven-hoofed animal indigenous to Texas, some state agency rules and regulations do not classify bison as such. This bill would establish policy at the Texas Department of Agriculture to recognize bison as wild, indigenous animals and would allow them to be raised and used for commercial purposes and for the purpose of preserving the species.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the committee’s opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

CSHB 641 amends the Agriculture Code to recognize that bison are wild animals indigenous to this state and are distinct from cattle, livestock, exotic livestock, and game animals. The bill also specifies that bison may be raised and used for commercial purposes or for preserving the bison species. The bill includes “bison” under the definition of “livestock” under the Health and Safety Code.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

On passage, or if the Act does not receive the necessary vote, the Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

### **COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL TO SUBSTITUTE**

CSHB641 modifies the original by amending the definition of “livestock” to include “bison” under the Health and Safety Code.