

AN ACT

relating to state policy and regulations regarding bison; providing penalties.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 2, Agriculture Code, is amended by adding Section 2.005 to read as follows:

Sec. 2.005. POLICY: BISON. The agricultural policy of this state must recognize that bison:

(1) are wild animals indigenous to this state;

(2) are distinct from cattle, livestock, exotic livestock, and game animals; and

(3) may be raised and used for:

(A) commercial purposes; or

(B) the purpose of preserving the bison species.

SECTION 2. Section 433.003(11), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(11) "Livestock" means cattle, bison, sheep, swine, goats, horses, mules, other equines, poultry, domestic rabbits, exotic animals, or domesticated game birds.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 641 was passed by the House on April 10, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 641 was passed by the Senate on May 1, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor