

**House Bill 1788**  
Senate Amendments  
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

SECTION 1. Chapter 43, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by adding Subchapter W to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER W. REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN STAMP

Sec. 43.901. REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN STAMP REQUIRED. (a) Except as provided by Section 43.905, a person may capture by nonlethal means an indigenous reptile or amphibian on the shoulder of a road, as defined by Section 541.302, Transportation Code, or the unpaved area of a public right-of-way only if the person possesses a reptile and amphibian stamp issued to the person by the department.

(b) The commission by rule shall prescribe the form, design, and manner of issuance of a stamp under this subchapter.

(c) The stamp is not valid unless the person to whom the stamp is issued has signed the stamp on its face.

(d) The commission by rule may prescribe alternate requirements for identifying the purchaser of a stamp issued in an automated manner.

(e) A stamp issued under this subchapter is valid only during the yearly period for which the stamp is issued without regard to the date on which the stamp is acquired. Each yearly period begins on September 1 or another date set by the commission and extends through August 31 of the next year or another date set by the commission.

Sec. 43.902. FEE. The fee for a reptile and amphibian stamp is \$10. The department may issue other editions of the stamp that are not valid for capturing by nonlethal means a species covered by this subchapter for a fee set by the commission.

Sec. 43.903. HUNTING LICENSE REQUIRED. The possession of a reptile and amphibian stamp does not authorize a person to capture by nonlethal means an indigenous reptile or amphibian:

(1) without possessing a hunting license required by Section

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CONFERENCE

**House Bill 1788**  
Senate Amendments  
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

42.002 or 42.005; or

(2) at a time or by means not otherwise authorized by this code.

Sec. 43.904. STAMP SALE RECEIPTS. The net revenue derived from the sale of reptile and amphibian stamps shall be credited to the game, fish, and water safety account.

Sec. 43.905. EXEMPTIONS. A person is not required to have a hunting license or reptile and amphibian stamp to capture by nonlethal means and subsequently release in another location an indigenous reptile or amphibian if the person is:

(1) performing activities related to oil or gas exploration or production;

(2) an employee of the state, a utility, as defined by Section 203.091, Transportation Code, or a power generation company, as defined by Section 31.002, Utilities Code, and is acting in the course and scope of the person's employment with the state, the utility, or the power generation company; or  
(3) performing activities related to surface coal mining and reclamation operations as defined by Section 134.004, Natural Resources Code.

Sec. 43.906. PENALTY. (a) A person who violates Section 43.901 commits an offense that is a Class C Parks and Wildlife Code misdemeanor.

(b) A person, other than a person described by Section 43.905, in an area described by Section 43.901 who is engaged in capturing by nonlethal means a species covered by this subchapter and fails or refuses on the demand of any game warden or other peace officer to show a reptile and amphibian stamp is presumed to be in violation of Section 43.901.

SENATE VERSION (IE)

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Sec. 43.905. EXEMPTIONS. A person is not required to have a hunting license or reptile and amphibian stamp to capture by nonlethal means and subsequently release in another location an indigenous reptile or amphibian if the person is:

(1) performing activities related to the operation and maintenance of pipelines and related facilities or to oil or gas exploration or production;

(2) an employee of the state, a utility, as defined by Section 203.091, Transportation Code, or a power generation company, as defined by Section 31.002, Utilities Code, and is acting in the course and scope of the person's employment with the state, the utility, or the power generation company; or  
(3) performing activities related to surface coal mining and reclamation operations as defined by Section 134.004, Natural Resources Code.

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CONFERENCE

**House Bill 1788**  
Senate Amendments  
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

SECTION 2. Section 62.0031, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (c), (d), and (e) to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Subsections ~~[Subsection]~~ (b) and (c), a person may not hunt a wild animal or bird when the person is on a public road or right-of-way.

(c) A person may capture by nonlethal means reptiles and amphibians on the shoulder of a road, as defined by Section 541.302, Transportation Code, or the unpaved area of a public right-of-way if the person:

(1) possesses a reptile and amphibian stamp issued to the person by the department and does not use a trap; or

(2) is described by Section 43.905.

(d) A person must wear reflective clothing when engaging in the capture by nonlethal means of a reptile or amphibian under a stamp issued by the department. The clothing must have at least 144 square inches of reflective material on both the front and back of the clothing.

(e) A person may not use a spotlight attached to a motor vehicle in capturing a reptile or amphibian under Subsection (c).

SECTION 3. Section 62.004, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 62.004. HUNTING AT NIGHT. (a) No person may hunt any wild bird, wild game bird, wild fowl, or wild game animal protected by this code at any season of the year between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise.

SENATE VERSION (IE)

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(c) A person may capture by nonlethal means reptiles and amphibians on the shoulder of a road, as defined by Section 541.302, Transportation Code, or the unpaved area of a public right-of-way if the person:

(1) possesses a reptile and amphibian stamp issued to the person by the department and does not use a trap; or

(2) is described by Section 43.905.

(d) A person must wear reflective clothing when engaging in the capture by nonlethal means of a reptile or amphibian under a stamp issued by the department. The clothing must have at least 144 square inches of reflective material on both the front and back of the clothing.

(e) A person may not use an artificial light from a motor vehicle in locating, capturing, or attempting to capture a reptile or amphibian under Subsection (c). [FA1]

No equivalent provision.

CONFERENCE

**House Bill 1788**  
Senate Amendments  
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

(b) Subsection (a) does not apply to a person engaging in the capture by nonlethal means of a reptile or amphibian under a stamp issued by the department.

SECTION 4. (a) Not later than March 1, 2012, the Parks and Wildlife Commission shall adopt:

(1) rules to implement the changes in law made by this Act; and

(2) the form, design, and manner of issuance of, and the fee for, a reptile and amphibian stamp under Subchapter W, Chapter 43, Parks and Wildlife Code, as added by this Act.

(b) Notwithstanding Sections 43.901(e) and 43.902, Parks and Wildlife Code, as added by this Act, the initial reptile and amphibian stamps issued under Subchapter W, Chapter 43, Parks and Wildlife Code:

(1) are valid for the period beginning the date the stamps first become available and ending on the expiration of the first yearly period set by the Parks and Wildlife Commission under Section 43.901(e); and

(2) shall be issued for a fee equal to the yearly fee, plus a prorated amount for the period beginning the date the stamps first become available and ending on the day preceding the date the first yearly period begins.

SECTION 5. 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, 2011.

SENATE VERSION (IE)

SECTION 3. Same as House version.

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CONFERENCE