

By: Zaffirini  
(Isaac)

S.B. No. 987

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the regulation of dangerous wild animals.

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

SECTION 1. Section 822.102(a), Health and Safety Code, as amended by S.B. No. 219, Acts of the 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015, is amended to read as follows:

(a) This subchapter does not apply to:

(1) a county, municipality, or agency of the state or an agency of the United States or an agent or official of a county, municipality, or agency acting in an official capacity;

(2) a research facility, as that term is defined by Section 2(e), Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. Section 2132), and its subsequent amendments, that is licensed by the secretary of agriculture of the United States under that Act;

(3) an organization that is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums;

(4) an injured, infirm, orphaned, or abandoned dangerous wild animal while being transported for care or treatment;

(5) an injured, infirm, orphaned, or abandoned dangerous wild animal while being rehabilitated, treated, or cared for by a licensed veterinarian, an incorporated humane society or animal shelter, or a person who holds a rehabilitation permit issued under Subchapter C, Chapter 43, Parks and Wildlife Code;

1           (6) a dangerous wild animal owned by and in the custody  
2 and control of a transient circus company that is not based in this  
3 state if:

4                   (A) the animal is used as an integral part of the  
5 circus performances; and

6                   (B) the animal is kept within this state only  
7 during the time the circus is performing in this state or for a  
8 period not to exceed 30 days while the circus is performing outside  
9 the United States;

10           (7) a dangerous wild animal while in the temporary  
11 custody or control of a television or motion picture production  
12 company during the filming of a television or motion picture  
13 production in this state;

14           (8) a dangerous wild animal owned by and in the  
15 possession, custody, or control of a college or university solely  
16 as a mascot for the college or university;

17           (9) a dangerous wild animal while being transported in  
18 interstate commerce through the state in compliance with the Animal  
19 Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. Section 2131 et seq.) and its subsequent  
20 amendments and the regulations adopted under that Act;

21           (10) a nonhuman primate owned by and in the control and  
22 custody of a person whose only business is supplying nonhuman  
23 primates directly and exclusively to biomedical research  
24 facilities and who holds a Class "A" or Class "B" dealer's license  
25 issued by the secretary of agriculture of the United States under  
26 the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. Section 2131 et seq.) and its  
27 subsequent amendments;

1           (11) a dangerous wild animal that is:

2                   (A) owned by or in the possession, control, or  
3 custody of a person who is a participant in a species survival plan  
4 of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums for that species; and

5                   (B) an integral part of that species survival  
6 plan; ~~and~~

7           (12) in a county west of the Pecos River that has a  
8 population of less than 25,000, a cougar, bobcat, or coyote in the  
9 possession, custody, or control of a person that has trapped the  
10 cougar, bobcat, or coyote as part of a predator or depredation  
11 control activity; and

12                   (13) an organization that is an accredited member of  
13 the Zoological Association of America.

14           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
18 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.