By:  Springer S.B. No. 840

(In the Senate - Filed February 26, 2021; March 11, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs; April 20, 2021, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; April 20, 2021, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

               Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Perry           X

Springer        X

Creighton       X

Eckhardt        X

Gutierrez       X

Johnson         X

Kolkhorst       X

Powell          X

Taylor          X

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the possession, transportation, and release of certain nonindigenous snakes; increasing a criminal penalty.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 43.851(a), Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  The commission by rule shall establish permits that allow permit holders to possess or transport in this state a live nonindigenous snake, including a hybrid of any kind, that is:

(1)  venomous [~~snake~~]; or

(2)  a constrictor that is one of the following:

(A)  African rock python, Python sebae;

(B)  Asiatic rock python, Python molurus;

(C)  Burmese python, Python bivittatus;

(D)  green anaconda, Eunectes murinus;

(E) [~~(D)~~]  reticulated python, Python reticulatus; or

(F) [~~(E)~~]  southern African python, Python natalensis.

SECTION 2.  Section 43.853, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 43.853.  RELEASE FROM CAPTIVITY. A person may not intentionally, knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence release or allow the release from captivity of a nonindigenous snake [~~covered by this subchapter~~].

SECTION 3.  Section 43.856, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(a)  Except as provided by Subsection (b) or (c), a person who violates this subchapter or a rule adopted under this subchapter commits an offense that is a Class C Parks and Wildlife Code misdemeanor.

(c)  If it is shown at the trial of the defendant for a violation of this subchapter or a rule adopted under this subchapter that the defendant has engaged in a commercial activity without holding a required permit and the defendant has been previously convicted of a violation of this subchapter or a rule adopted under this subchapter, on conviction the defendant shall be punished for a Class B Parks and Wildlife Code misdemeanor.

SECTION 4.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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