

By: Goodwin

H.B. No. 1941

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use of certain devices to train or control the behavior of an elephant; creating a criminal offense.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 821, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subchapter E to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER E. TREATMENT OF ELEPHANTS

Sec. 821.101. USE OF CERTAIN DEVICES ON ELEPHANTS

PROHIBITED. A person may not use any device, including a bullhook, ankus, baseball bat, axe handle, or pitchfork, to train or control the behavior of an elephant in a manner that inflicts physical pain on the elephant.

Sec. 821.102. CRIMINAL PENALTY. (a) A person commits an offense if the person violates Section 821.101.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor, except that the offense is a state jail felony if it is shown at the trial of the offense that the defendant has previously been convicted two or more times of an offense under this section.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.