

By: Springer

S.B. No. 840

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

1 snake [~~covered by this subchapter~~].

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

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

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

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