88R11529 BEE-D

By:  Smithee H.B. No. 4270

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the classification of and regulation of the taking of aoudad sheep as game animals.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 1.101(4), Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended to read as follows:

(4)  "Wild," when used in reference to an animal, means a species, including each individual of a species, that normally lives in a state of nature and is not ordinarily domesticated. The term [~~This definition~~] does not include exotic livestock defined by Section 161.001(a)(4), Agriculture Code, except that the term does include aoudad sheep.

SECTION 2.  Section 43.103(3), Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended to read as follows:

(3)  "Exotic animals" includes exotic livestock and exotic fowl as defined by Section 161.001(a), Agriculture Code, wild animals that are nonindigenous to Texas, [~~aoudad sheep,~~] and elk. The term does not include aoudad sheep.

SECTION 3.  Section 61.054, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c)  A proclamation of the commission under this section must provide for the taking of aoudad sheep to be regulated in the same manner that the taking of deer is regulated under this code and commission rule, including with respect to bag limits and carcass removal. This subsection does not apply to the regulation of breeder deer.

SECTION 4.  Section 62.015(a), Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  In this section, "exotic animal" means exotic livestock or exotic fowl as defined by Section 161.001(a), Agriculture Code, and [~~aoudad sheep, or~~] elk. The term does not include aoudad sheep.

SECTION 5.  Section 63.001, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 63.001.  GAME ANIMALS. (a) The following animals are game animals: mule deer, white-tailed deer, pronghorn antelope, desert bighorn sheep, aoudad sheep, gray or cat squirrels, fox squirrels or red squirrels, and collared peccary or javelina.

(b)  No species of any animal set out in Subsection (a) [~~of this section~~] or any other animal is a game animal if it is not indigenous to this state, except that aoudad sheep are game animals.

SECTION 6.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.