

By: Smithee

H.B. No. 4270

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the classification of and regulation of the taking of
3 aoudad sheep as game animals.

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 (c) A proclamation of the commission under this section must
22 provide for the taking of aoudad sheep to be regulated in the same
23 manner that the taking of deer is regulated under this code and
24 commission rule, including with respect to bag limits and carcass

1 removal. This subsection does not apply to the regulation of
2 breeder deer.

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

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

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

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

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

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