

By: Eckhardt

S.B. No. 1285

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the protection of bats.

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

SECTION 1. Section 63.101, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 63.101. PROTECTION OF BATS. (a) Except as provided by Subsections (b), (b-1), and (c), a ~~no~~ person may not:

(1) confine or hunt a bat; or

(2) sell, offer for sale, purchase, offer to purchase, or possess after purchase a bat or any part of a bat, dead or alive.

(b) Subject to Subsection (b-1), a ~~A~~ bat may be removed or hunted if the bat is inside or on a building occupied by people.

(b-1) A bat or bat colony using a building or structure as a roost site may be controlled only by a nonlethal exclusion method that allows bats to leave but not reenter the building or structure. The exclusion method described by this subsection may not be implemented during the period each year beginning May 1 and ending August 31.

(c) This section does not apply to:

(1) an animal control officer, a peace officer, a licensed pest control professional, or a health official who captures a bat that the officer, professional, or official considers injured or diseased; or

(2) a person who transports a bat for the purpose of:

1                    (A) laboratory testing if the bat has exposed or  
2 potentially exposed humans or domestic animals to rabies; or

3                    (B) rehabilitation at a registered  
4 rehabilitation facility if the bat has had no known prior exposure  
5 with humans

6                    [~~(3) a person who is licensed to provide pest control~~  
7 ~~services~~].

8                    SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.