

1-1 By: Springer S.B. No. 840  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 26, 2021; March 11, 2021,  
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Water, Agriculture &  
 1-4 Rural Affairs; April 20, 2021, reported favorably by the following  
 1-5 vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; April 20, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to the possession, transportation, and release of certain  
 1-20 nonindigenous snakes; increasing a criminal penalty.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. Section 43.851(a), Parks and Wildlife Code, is  
 1-23 amended to read as follows:

1-24 (a) The commission by rule shall establish permits that  
 1-25 allow permit holders to possess or transport in this state a live  
 1-26 nonindigenous snake, including a hybrid of any kind, that is:

- 1-27 (1) venomous ~~[snake]~~; or
- 1-28 (2) a constrictor that is one of the following:
  - 1-29 (A) African rock python, Python sebae;
  - 1-30 (B) Asiatic rock python, Python molurus;
  - 1-31 (C) Burmese python, Python bivittatus;
  - 1-32 (D) green anaconda, Eunectes murinus;
  - 1-33 (E) ~~[(D)]~~ reticulated python, Python
  - 1-34 reticulatus; or
  - 1-35 (F) ~~[(E)]~~ southern African python, Python
  - 1-36 natalensis.

1-37 SECTION 2. Section 43.853, Parks and Wildlife Code, is  
 1-38 amended to read as follows:

1-39 Sec. 43.853. RELEASE FROM CAPTIVITY. A person may not  
 1-40 intentionally, knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence  
 1-41 release or allow the release from captivity of a nonindigenous  
 1-42 snake ~~[covered by this subchapter]~~.

1-43 SECTION 3. Section 43.856, Parks and Wildlife Code, is  
 1-44 amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (c) to  
 1-45 read as follows:

1-46 (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) or (c), a person  
 1-47 who violates this subchapter or a rule adopted under this  
 1-48 subchapter commits an offense that is a Class C Parks and Wildlife  
 1-49 Code misdemeanor.

1-50 (c) If it is shown at the trial of the defendant for a  
 1-51 violation of this subchapter or a rule adopted under this  
 1-52 subchapter that the defendant has engaged in a commercial activity  
 1-53 without holding a required permit and the defendant has been  
 1-54 previously convicted of a violation of this subchapter or a rule  
 1-55 adopted under this subchapter, on conviction the defendant shall be  
 1-56 punished for a Class B Parks and Wildlife Code misdemeanor.

1-57 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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