

1-1 By: Parker S.B. No. 2969
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 14, 2025; April 7, 2025, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Criminal Justice;
1-4 May 14, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 7,
1-5 Nays 0; May 14, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	Flores	X		
1-9	Parker	X		
1-10	Hagenbuch	X		
1-11	Hinojosa of Hidalgo	X		
1-12	Huffman	X		
1-13	King	X		
1-14	Miles	X		

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to the creation of the criminal offense of trespass in a
1-18 facility housing an animal and to restitution for property damage
1-19 resulting from that trespass.

1-20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-21 SECTION 1. Chapter 30, Penal Code, is amended by adding
1-22 Section 30.08 to read as follows:

1-23 Sec. 30.08. TRESPASS IN FACILITY HOUSING AN ANIMAL. (a) In
1-24 this section, "harass" means to engage in any act that:

1-25 (1) demonstrates a disregard for the well-being of an
1-26 animal; or

1-27 (2) disrupts the normal behavior patterns of an
1-28 animal, including disrupting the animal's feeding, watering,
1-29 resting, or breeding.

1-30 (b) A person commits an offense if the person enters an
1-31 indoor or outdoor facility housing an animal that is operated for
1-32 the purpose of public visitation, conservation, education, or
1-33 science, including a zoo, and the person:

1-34 (1) enters a cage, enclosure, or other area where an
1-35 animal is exhibited or housed; and

1-36 (2) knows the person has no legal authority, license,
1-37 or permission to enter.

1-38 (c) An offense under this section is a state jail felony,
1-39 except that the offense is a felony of the third degree if it is
1-40 shown on the trial of the offense that:

1-41 (1) the actor harassed the animal; and

1-42 (2) the animal suffered injury or death.

1-43 (d) It is a defense to prosecution under this section that
1-44 the person entered the cage, enclosure, or other area to aid another
1-45 person or an animal located in the cage, enclosure, or other area.

1-46 (e) It is not a defense to prosecution under this section
1-47 that:

1-48 (1) entry to the cage, enclosure, or other area where
1-49 the animal was exhibited or housed was not sufficiently guarded,
1-50 locked, or made otherwise inaccessible; or

1-51 (2) injury to the animal was necessary to protect the
1-52 person from injury or death.

1-53 SECTION 2. Article 42.037, Code of Criminal Procedure, is
1-54 amended by adding Subsection (y) to read as follows:

1-55 (y) If a defendant is convicted of an offense under Section
1-56 30.08, Penal Code, the court shall order the defendant to make
1-57 restitution to the facility for the cost of any damage, loss, or
1-58 destruction as a result of the offense, including the injury or
1-59 death of the animal.

1-60 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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