

CHAPTER 477

H.B. No. 2463

An Act relating to the hunting and possession of certain exotic animals; providing penalties.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Chapter 62, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by adding Section 62.013 to read as follows:

Sec. 62.013. HUNTING AND POSSESSION OF EXOTIC ANIMALS. (a) In this section, "exotic animal" means axis deer, fallow deer, blackbuck antelope, sika deer, aoudad sheep, mouflon sheep, barbado sheep, European red deer, Corsican sheep, four-horned sheep, sambar deer, eland antelope, sable antelope, white-tailed gnu, impala, greater kudu, blesbok, gazelle, oryx, guanaco, llama, thar, nilgai antelope, or ibex.

(b) No person on a public road or on the right-of-way of a public road may hunt an exotic animal.

(c) No person may hunt on the land of another for an exotic animal without the express consent of the owner of the land to hunt for exotic animals.

(d) Except as provided in Subsections (e) and (f) of this section, no person may possess the carcass of an exotic animal.

(e) Subsection (d) of this section does not apply to the owner or employee of the owner of the exotic animal, a public health officer, a law enforcement officer, or a veterinarian.

(f) It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution under Subsection (d) of this section that the person possessed the carcass of the exotic animal with the knowledge and consent of the owner.

(g) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,500 or confinement in jail for not more than six months or both.

SECTION 2. Subchapter D, Chapter 233, and Subchapter C, Chapter 293, Parks and Wildlife Code, are repealed. A person who violated a provision of those laws before the effective date of this Act shall be prosecuted under the law as it existed on the date the violation occurred, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on May 17, 1985, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate on May 26, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved: June 11, 1985

Effective: August 26, 1985