
DIGEST

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HB 531 Original

2024 Regular Session

Thomas

Abstract: Provides relative to the regulation of reptiles and amphibians, changes regulations for importation and possession of reptiles and amphibians, changes regulations for taking of reptiles and amphibians, changes regulations for taking of diamond terrapins, changes regulations for taking of wild box turtles, changes the violation level of listed provisions.

Present law requires the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, through its secretary shall promulgate rules and regulations to control the importation and private possession of nonindigenous constrictors in excess of 12 feet in length. Proposed law modifies present law by changing the size from 12 to 8 feet and allowing for exceptions for certified animal sanctuaries, zoos, aquariums, wildlife research centers, scientific organizations and medical research facilities.

Present law provides that a violation of present law (R.S. 56:632.3) is a class one violation. Proposed law modifies present law by changing a violation from a class one to a class two violation.

Present law provides for requirements for persons engaged in the sale of native reptiles and amphibians in Louisiana. Proposed law adds additional license requirements to present law, as set forth by the department.

Proposed law clarifies language related to the reptile and amphibian wholesale/retail dealer's license.

Present law provides that a violation of present law (R.S. 56:632.5) is a class three violation. Proposed law modifies present law by changing a violation from a class three to a class two violation.

Present law provides for certain species of constrictor snakes in excess of eight feet long that may be imported or possessed in accordance with a permit issued by the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries. Proposed law modifies present law by removing certain species from those requirements. Proposed law adds certain species of constrictor snakes at any size that may be imported, possessed, or sold in accordance with a permit issued by the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Present law provides that the importation of venomous snakes shall only be by permit issued by the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries. Proposed law modifies present law by providing for certain species of venomous snakes that are prohibited from importation and possession, except under certain enumerated exceptions.

Present law provides for methods of collection of reptiles and amphibians. Proposed law provides

for requirements for taking a reptile or amphibian with the use of traps or other devices.

Present law provides for taking of diamond terrapins. Proposed law modifies present law by clarifying language and removing a time period for shipping diamondback terrapins out of the state.

Present law provides for the administration, enforcement, and penalties for taking of box turtles, and provides for limitations on taking of wild box turtles. Proposed law modifies present law by changing the limit of box turtles a person may have in their possession from four to two. Present law provides that a violation of this paragraph shall be a class one violation. Proposed law modifies present law by changing the violation from a class one violation to a class two violation.

(Amends R.S 56:6(30), 632.3(B), 632.4(Section heading) and (B), 632.5(A) and (F), 632.5.1(Section heading), (A), (B), and (C), 632.6(C) and (D), 635, and 637.1(B)(2); Adds R.S. 56:632.4(C) and (D))