

By Senator Sobel

31-00241-10

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to reptiles; amending s. 379.372,
3 F.S.; prohibiting any person from possessing,
4 importing, selling, trading, or breeding certain
5 specified reptile species, including a reptile
6 designated as a reptile of concern by the Fish and
7 Wildlife Conservation Commission; providing certain
8 exceptions applicable to reptiles for which the owner
9 holds a permit issued before a specified date;
10 providing an effective date.

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12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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14 Section 1. Section 379.372, Florida Statutes, is amended to
15 read:

16 379.372 Capturing, keeping, possessing, transporting, or
17 exhibiting venomous reptiles or reptiles of concern; license
18 required.—

19 (1) (a) No person, firm, or corporation shall capture, keep,
20 possess, or exhibit any poisonous or venomous reptile or reptile
21 of concern without first having obtained a special permit or
22 license therefor from the Fish and Wildlife Conservation
23 Commission as provided in this section.

24 (b) ~~(2)~~ By December 31, 2007, the commission shall establish
25 a list of reptiles of concern, including venomous, nonvenomous,
26 native, nonnative, or other reptiles, which require additional
27 regulation for capture, possession, transportation, or
28 exhibition due to their nature, habits, status, or potential to
29 negatively impact the environment, ecology, or humans.

31-00241-10

2010318

30 (c)~~(3)~~ It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or
31 corporation, whether licensed hereunder or not, to capture,
32 keep, possess, or exhibit any venomous reptile or reptile of
33 concern in any manner not approved as safe, secure, and proper
34 by the commission. Venomous reptiles or reptiles of concern held
35 in captivity are subject to inspection by the commission. The
36 commission shall determine whether the reptiles are securely,
37 safely, and properly penned. In the event that the reptiles are
38 not safely penned, the commission shall report the situation in
39 writing to the person, firm, or corporation owning the reptiles.
40 Failure of the person, firm, or corporation to correct the
41 situation within 30 days after such written notice shall be
42 grounds for revocation of the license or permit of the person,
43 firm, or corporation.

44 (d)~~(4)~~ Venomous reptiles or reptiles of concern shall be
45 transported in a safe, secure, and proper manner. The commission
46 shall establish by rule the requirements for the transportation
47 of venomous reptiles or reptiles of concern.

48 (2) (a) No person, firm, or corporation shall keep, possess,
49 import into the state, sell, barter, trade, or breed the
50 following species for personal use or for sale for personal use:

- 51 1. Burmese or Indian python (*Python molurus*).
- 52 2. Reticulated python (*Python reticulatus*).
- 53 3. African rock python (*Python sebae*).
- 54 4. Amethystine or scrub python (*Morelia amethystinus*).
- 55 5. Anaconda (*Eunectes*).
- 56 6. Nile monitor (*Varanus niloticus*).
- 57 7. Any other reptile designated as a reptile of concern by
58 the commission.

31-00241-10

2010318__

59 (b) However, if a person holds a permit issued before July
60 1, 2010, pursuant to subsection (1) to legally possess a species
61 listed in paragraph (a), that person may possess the individual
62 reptile for the remainder of that reptile's life. Any person who
63 possesses an anaconda, other than a green anaconda (*Eunectes*
64 *murinus*), and who meets the required criteria must obtain a
65 permit pursuant to subsection (1) by October 1, 2010, in order
66 to keep that anaconda for the remainder of its life.

67 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.