

By Senator Farmer

34-00321-20

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to prohibited reptiles; amending s.  
3       379.372, F.S.; making technical changes; prohibiting a  
4       person, party, firm, association, or corporation from  
5       keeping, possessing, importing, selling, bartering,  
6       trading, or breeding for personal use or sale for  
7       personal use green iguanas or black and white tegus;  
8       reenacting s. 379.2311(1), F.S., relating to the  
9       definition of the term "priority invasive species," to  
10      incorporate the amendment made to s. 379.372, F.S., in  
11      a reference thereto; providing an effective date.

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

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

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

20       (1) (a) A ~~No~~ person, a party, a firm, an association, or a  
21      corporation may not ~~shall~~ capture, keep, possess, or exhibit any  
22      poisonous or venomous reptile or reptile of concern without  
23      first having obtained a special permit or license therefor from  
24      the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as provided in  
25      this section.

26       (b) ~~By December 31, 2007,~~ The commission shall establish a  
27      list of reptiles of concern, including venomous, nonvenomous,  
28      native, nonnative, or other reptiles, which require additional  
29      regulation for capture, possession, transportation, or

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30 exhibition due to their nature, habits, status, or potential to  
31 negatively impact humans, the environment, or ecology.

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

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

51 (2) (a) A ~~No~~ person, a party, a firm, an association, or a  
52 corporation may not ~~shall~~ keep, possess, import into the state,  
53 sell, barter, trade, or breed any of the following species for  
54 personal use or for sale for personal use:

- 55 1. Burmese or Indian python (*Python molurus*).
- 56 2. Reticulated python (*Python reticulatus*).
- 57 3. Northern African python (*Python sebae*).
- 58 4. Southern African python (*Python natalensis*).

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59 5. Amethystine or scrub python (*Morelia amethystinus*).

60 6. Green Anaconda (*Eunectes murinus*).

61 7. Nile monitor (*Varanus niloticus*).

62 8. Green iguana (*Iguana iguana*).

63 9. Black and white tegu (*Salvator merianae*).

64 10.8. Any other reptile designated as a conditional or  
65 prohibited species by the commission.

66 (b) If a person, party, firm, association, or corporation  
67 holds a permit issued before July 1, 2010, under subsection (1)  
68 to legally possess a species listed in paragraph (a), that  
69 person, party, firm, association, or corporation may possess  
70 such reptile for the remainder of the life of the reptile.

71 (c) If a person, party, firm, association, or corporation  
72 holds a permit issued before July 1, 2010, under subsection (1)  
73 to legally possess a reptile listed in paragraph (a), and the  
74 reptile remains alive following the death or dissolution of the  
75 licensee, the reptile may be legally transferred to another  
76 entity holding a permit authorizing possession of the reptile  
77 for the remainder of the life of the reptile.

78 (d) If the commission designates a species of reptile as a  
79 conditional or prohibited species after July 1, 2010, the  
80 commission may authorize the personal possession of that newly  
81 designated species by those licensed to possess that species of  
82 reptile before the effective date of the species' designation by  
83 the commission as a conditional or prohibited species. The  
84 personal possession of such reptile is not a violation of  
85 paragraph (a) if the personal possession was authorized by the  
86 commission.

87 (e) This subsection does not apply to traveling wildlife

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88 exhibitors that are licensed or registered under the United  
89 States Animal Welfare Act or to zoological facilities that are  
90 licensed or exempted by the commission from the licensure  
91 requirement.

92 Section 2. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment  
93 made by this act to section 379.372, Florida Statutes, in a  
94 reference thereto, subsection (1) of section 379.2311, Florida  
95 Statutes, is reenacted to read:

96 379.2311 Nonnative animal management.—

97 (1) As used in this section, the term "priority invasive  
98 species" means the following:

99 (a) Lizards of the genus *Tupinambis*, also known as tegu  
100 lizards;

101 (b) Species identified in s. 379.372(2)(a);

102 (c) *Pterois volitans*, also known as red lionfish; and

103 (d) *Pterois miles*, also known as the common lionfish or  
104 devil firefish.

105 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.