

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE BILL NO. 357

BY SENATOR CHABERT

ANIMALS. Bans the importation or private possession of certain constrictor and venomous snakes. (8/1/14)

1 AN ACT
2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:632.5.1(A) and (B), relative to reptiles and amphibians; to
3 provide for constrictor and venomous snakes; to prohibit the importation or private
4 possession of constrictor and venomous snakes; to provide certain exemptions; to
5 provide terms, conditions, and requirements; and to provide for related matters.
6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
7 Section 1. R.S. 56:632.5.1(A) and (B) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as
8 follows:
9 §632.5.1. Constrictors and poisonous snakes
10 A. The importation or private possession of constrictor snakes ~~in excess of~~
11 ~~eight feet long~~, including but not limited to the following species: Apodora papuana
12 (Papuan python), Liasis olivacea, (Olive python), Morelia spilota (Carpet or
13 Diamond python), Morelia kinghorni (Scrub python), Morelia amethystine
14 (Amethystine python), Python natalensis (Southern African python), Python sebae
15 (African Rock python), Python molurus (Indian or Burmese python), Python
16 reticulatus (Reticulate python), any species of the genus Boa (Boa constrictors), and
17 any species of the genus Eunectes (Anacondas), obtained in any manner, shall be

1 ~~only by permit issued by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries~~ **prohibited** except
 2 for animals kept by animal sanctuaries, zoos, aquariums, wildlife research centers,
 3 scientific organizations, and medical research facilities as defined in the Animal
 4 Welfare Act as found in the United States Code Title 7, Chapter 54, 2132(e).

5 B. The importation or private possession of venomous snakes, including any
 6 species under current taxonomic standing recognized to belong to the Families
 7 Viperidae (Pitvipers and Vipers), Elapidae (Cobras and Mambas), Hydrophiidae (Sea
 8 Snakes), Atractaspidae (Mole Vipers), as well as the genera Dispholidus,
 9 Thelotornis, and Rhabdophis of the Family Colubridae obtained in any manner, shall
 10 be ~~only by permit issued by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries~~ **prohibited**
 11 except for animals kept by animal sanctuaries, zoos, aquariums, wildlife research
 12 centers, scientific organizations, and medical research facilities as defined in the
 13 Animal Welfare Act as found in the United States Code Title 7, Chapter 54, 2132(e).

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by McHenry Lee.

DIGEST

Chabert (SB 357)

Present law requires that any person who imports or privately possesses a constrictor or venomous snakes have a permit issued by the DW&F. Makes an exception for animal sanctuaries, zoos, aquariums, wildlife research centers, scientific organizations, and medical research facilities as defined by the U.S. Animal Welfare Act.

Proposed law prohibits the importation or private possession of constrictor and venomous snakes but retains the present law exemption for animal sanctuaries, zoos, aquariums, wildlife research centers, scientific organizations, and medical research facilities as defined by the U.S. Animal Welfare Act.

Effective August 1, 2014.

(Amends R.S. 56:632.5.1(A) and (B))