

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R3602 YDB-D

S.B. 261
By: Bernsen
Business & Commerce
2/23/2001
Committee Report (Substituted)

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, human salmonellosis associated with exotic pets is gaining recognition as a reemerging disease. As proposed, C.S.S.B. 261 requires the owner of the pet store that sells reptiles to post a sign warning of reptile-associated salmonellosis, provide a written warning of reptile-associated salmonellosis to the purchaser of a reptile, and require the Texas Board of Health to adopt rules to govern the information required by the sign and the written notice.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the Texas Board of Health in SECTION 1 (Section 81.352, Health and Safety Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 81, Health and Safety Code, by adding Subchapter I, as follows:

SUBCHAPTER I. ANIMAL-BORNE DISEASES

Sec. 81.351. DEFINITION. Defines "pet store."

Sec. 81.352. WARNING SIGN REQUIRED; BOARD RULES. Requires the owner or operator of a pet store that sells reptiles to post a sign warning of reptile-associated salmonellosis in accordance with the Texas Board of Health (board) rules; and ensure that a written warning related to reptile-associated salmonellosis is provided to each purchaser of a reptile. Requires the board to adopt rules to govern the form and content of the required sign and the manner and place of posting of the sign; and the form and content of the required written warning.

Sec. 81.353. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY. Authorizes the Texas Department of Health (department), if the department determines that this section has been violated, to impose an administrative penalty of no more than \$500 for each act of violation.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2001.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES

SECTION 1. Amends As filed S.B. 261, Section 81.353, Health & Safety Code, as follows:

- Replaces As Filed proposed text of Sec. 81.353 regarding criminal penalty with new text regarding administrative penalty.
- Deletes previously proposed language in Sec. 81.353 pertaining to an offense under this

Section being a Class C misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. No change.