

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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S.B. 498
By: Armbrister
Subcommittee on Agriculture
3/24/2003
As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, the Office of General Counsel of the Texas Department of Health recognizes bison as exotic animals under the Texas Meat and Poultry Inspection Act's definition of exotic animals. As proposed, S.B. 498 establishes a policy that recognizes bison as wild, indigenous animals at the Texas Department of Agriculture.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 2, Agriculture Code, by adding Section 2.005, as follows:

Sec. 2.005. POLICY: BISON. Requires the agriculture policy of this state to recognize that bison are wild animals indigenous to this state, are distinct from cattle, livestock, exotic livestock, and game animals, and may be raised and used for commercial purposes or for preserving the bison species.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2003.