

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
84R11180 BEF-D

S.B. 970
By: Perry
Agriculture, Water, & Rural Affairs
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As Filed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Currently, it is not a criminal offense to improperly handle or move livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl when the owner has been notified that the animal is restricted because of disease exposure or disease testing.

The legislation makes it a Class C misdemeanor to improperly handle or move livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl when the owner has been notified that the animal is restricted because of disease exposure or disease testing.

As proposed, S.B. 970 amends current law relating to the failure to handle certain animals in accordance with rules of the Texas Animal Health Commission; imposes a criminal penalty.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) in SECTION 1 (Section 161.041, Agriculture Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 161.041(c), Agriculture Code, as follows:

(c) Provides that a person commits an offense if the person knowingly fails to handle, in accordance with rules adopted by TAHC, livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl:

- (1) infected with a disease listed in Subsection (a);
- (2) exposed to a disease listed in Subsection (a) if TAHC has notified the person that the animal was exposed to the disease; or
- (3) the movement of which is restricted under rules adopted by TAHC.

SECTION 2. Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2015.