



## MISSISSIPPI TO CREATE NON-NATIVE REPTILE PROGRAM

### The Issue.

House Bill 1293 establishes the Mississippi Non-Native Reptile Program to be administered by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

### The Impact.

The purpose of the proposed program is to prohibit the release of non-native reptiles that may breed and endanger Mississippi native animal species and citizens.

Under this bill, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks will create rules and regulations to implement programs that, at least:

- Prohibit the release of snakes not found in and are not indigenous to Mississippi from being released in the state's wildlife;
- Regulate venomous, poisonous and constrictor snakes of any kind; and
- Require a person to report or turn in any snakes to the department.

### Recommended Action.

This bill has been assigned to the House Committee on Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks but has yet to be set for committee hearing. As soon as this information becomes available it will be posted on the 'Breaking News' page of the PIJAC website (<http://www.pijac.org/petinformation/breakingnews.asp>), so we urge you to check the website regularly for updates.

If you are concerned about this legislation, we urge you to contact members of the Committee with your questions and concerns. Contact information for committee members is listed below.

Also, to easily contact both members of the Committee, as well as your own Representative, visit PIJAC's [Legislative Action Center](http://www.pijac.org/governmentaffairs) on the PIJAC website (<http://www.pijac.org/governmentaffairs>) to learn how.

The text to HB 1293 is attached to the online version of this *PetAlert*, found on the 'Breaking News' page of the PIJAC website (<http://www.pijac.org/petinformation/breakingnews.asp>).

If you have further questions please feel free to contact PIJAC's Bambi Nicole Osborne by phone at 202-452-1525 or via email at [bambi@pijac.org](mailto:bambi@pijac.org).



**State of Mississippi  
House Committee on Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks  
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**On behalf of pets, responsible pet owners, and the pet industry, we thank you!**

**2010 MS H 1293**    **AUTHOR:**                Banks  
                          **VERSION:**                Introduced  
                          **VERSION DATE:**        01/18/2010

MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE

2010 Regular Session

To: Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks

By: Representative Banks

House Bill 1293

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE MISSISSIPPI NON-NATIVE REPTILE PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE THE PROGRAM TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS; TO PROVIDE MINIMUM GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

**SECTION 1.** (1) There is established the Mississippi Non-native Reptile Program to be administered by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. The purpose of the program is to prohibit the release of non-native reptiles that may breed and endanger Mississippi native animal species and citizens.

(2) The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks shall create rules and regulations to implement such programs that, at least:

(a) Prohibits the release of snakes not found in and are not indigenous to Mississippi from being released in the state's wildlife;

(b) Regulates venomous, poisonous and constrictor snakes of any kind; and

(c) Requires a person to report or turn in any snakes to the department.

**SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2010.