



PYTHON AND BOA CONSTRICTOR BAN PRESENTED IN RHODE ISLAND

The Issue:

Rhode Island is the latest state to try to prohibit the ownership of certain snakes. [Senate Bill 2033](#) proposes a ban on the ownership of pythons and boa constrictions in Rhode Island. Anyone found in possession of these animals will face fines of at least \$1,000.

The Impact:

The bill provides prohibits ownership of the following:

- Alligators;
- Crocodiles;
- Pythons; and
- Boa constrictors.

Anyone found in ownership of the listed animals will be fined at least \$1,000.

PIJAC Position:

An outright ban of the listed species in [SB 2033](#) is unnecessary and will drive trade underground. Generally, PIJAC supports licensing legislation for species that could become invasive; however, none of these species could become invasive in the climate of Rhode Island. The state needs to adopt a more sustainable and flexible regulatory mechanism to handle these species, and to determine what happens to current owners of these animals.

Recommended Action:

Senate Bill 2033 is in the Senate Environment & Agriculture Committee, and has not yet been set for a hearing. If this legislation affects you [contact the committee members](#) with concerns and questions. You might want to, respectfully, raise the following points:

- None of the listed animals could become invasive to Rhode Island.
- What happens to current owners of these species? Are they expected to get rid of these animals? Will there be a “grandfather” clause for current owners to ensure unintended consequences of such a ban?
- Imposing a complete ban will only drive the trade of these species underground, which is not good for the animals or public health and safety.

If you have any further concerns or questions about this legislation, please feel free to contact PIJAC’s Bambi Nicole Osborne at 202-452-152, ext. 105 or by email at Bambi@pijac.org .