

myfox8.com /news/sns-ap-nc-xgr--dangerousreptiles,0,6417126.story

WGHP

NC Legislature agrees to new ownership, enclosure rules for pythons, crocodiles

By Associated Press

6:36 PM EDT, July 15, 2009

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — People who own pythons, crocodiles and some types of alligators would have to keep them in sturdy enclosures with a lock according to legislation awaiting Gov. Beverly Perdue's signature.

The Senate gave unanimous final legislative approval Wednesday to the bill that also requires owners to alert police if one of these reptiles escape.

The owner would face a misdemeanor if a friend or stranger dies or suffers a life-threatening injury from the reptile and due care wasn't taken.

The measure builds on a 1949 law that focuses on poisonous snakes. The change reflects increased ownership of exotic pets and their danger to humans.

Approval comes two weeks after a 2-year-old Florida girl died when she was strangled by a Burmese python missing from a home terrarium.

