
HOUSE BILL 2053

State of Washington 54th Legislature 1995 Regular Session

By Representatives Romero and Cole

Read first time 02/27/95. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to animal trapping; amending RCW 77.12.040,
2 77.32.191, and 77.32.197; and adding a new section to chapter 77.12
3 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 77.12 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) Trappers licensed under RCW 77.32.010 shall not use leghold
8 traps. The director shall adopt rules to implement this section.

9 (2) For purposes of this section, "leghold trap" means a spring-
10 powered trap, featuring two metal jaws that clap shut on an animal's
11 leg when the animal steps on a weight-sensitive trigger. These traps
12 are known as: Steel leghold traps; steel-jawed traps; leghold traps;
13 foothold traps; long-spring traps; coil-spring traps; underspring or
14 jump traps; and guarded or stop-loss traps.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 77.12.040 and 1987 c 506 s 15 are each amended to read
16 as follows:

17 Except as provided in section 1 of this act, the commission shall
18 adopt, amend, or repeal, and enforce reasonable rules prohibiting or

1 governing the time, place, and manner of taking or possessing game
2 animals, game birds, or game fish. The commission may specify the
3 quantities, species, sex, and size of game animals, game birds, or game
4 fish that may be taken or possessed. The commission shall regulate the
5 taking, sale, possession, and distribution of wildlife and deleterious
6 exotic wildlife. The director may adopt emergency rules under RCW
7 77.12.150.

8 The commission may establish by rule game reserves and closed areas
9 where hunting for wild animals or wild birds may be prohibited and
10 closed waters where fishing for game fish may be prohibited.

11 **Sec. 3.** RCW 77.32.191 and 1991 sp.s. c 7 s 3 are each amended to
12 read as follows:

13 A state trapping license allows the holder to trap fur-bearing
14 animals throughout the state; however, a trapper may not place traps on
15 private property without written permission of the owner, lessee, or
16 tenant (~~((where the land is improved and apparently used, or where the
17 land is fenced or enclosed in a manner designed to exclude intruders or
18 to indicate a property boundary line, or where notice is given by
19 posting in a conspicuous manner))~~). A state trapping license is void on
20 April 1st following the date of issuance. The fee for this license is
21 thirty-six dollars for residents sixteen years of age or older, fifteen
22 dollars for residents under sixteen years of age, and one hundred
23 eighty dollars for nonresidents.

24 **Sec. 4.** RCW 77.32.197 and 1987 c 506 s 82 are each amended to read
25 as follows:

26 Persons purchasing a state trapping license for the first time
27 shall present certification of completion of a course of instruction in
28 safe, humane, and proper trapping techniques or pass an examination to
29 establish that the applicant has the requisite knowledge.

30 The director shall establish a program for training persons in
31 trapping techniques and responsibilities, (~~((including))~~) emphasizing the
32 use of trapping devices designed to painlessly capture or instantly
33 kill. The director shall cooperate with national and state animal,
34 humane, hunter education, and trapping organizations in the development
35 of a curriculum. Upon successful completion of the course, trainees
36 shall receive a trapper's training certificate signed by an authorized

1 instructor. This certificate is evidence of compliance with this
2 section.

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