
HOUSE BILL 2807

State of Washington 55th Legislature 1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Pennington, Alexander and Mielke

Read first time 01/20/98. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to protecting citizens from dangerous wildlife;
2 adding a new section to chapter 77.12 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

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

6 In addition to the authority conveyed to the department of health
7 in chapter 16.70 RCW and to the department of agriculture in chapter
8 16.36 RCW, the department of fish and wildlife may by rule identify
9 nonnative wildlife species that pose a physical threat to the safety of
10 Washington citizens. It is unlawful for any person to bring into or
11 keep in the state animals so identified by the department. This
12 prohibition on bringing and keeping these animals in the state does not
13 apply to zoos, animal research facilities, or similar facilities. The
14 prohibition applies to individuals desiring to keep these animals as
15 pets. The department shall establish criteria to evaluate whether a
16 nonnative wildlife species poses a physical threat to the safety of
17 citizens and to identify the facilities to which the prohibition does
18 not apply. Any person may ask the department to evaluate a nonnative
19 wildlife species for consideration under this section.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The legislature finds that keeping tigers
2 and other nonnative species of the family felidae with male adult body
3 weight averaging over two hundred fifty pounds as pets poses a physical
4 threat to the safety of citizens living near the big cats. The
5 department of fish and wildlife shall prohibit the import of these
6 animals as part of implementing section 1 of this act. Any such
7 animals being kept as pets in the state of Washington must be relocated
8 to another state or to a facility within the state, such as a zoo,
9 within thirty days after the effective date of this act.

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