

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5133

As of January 15, 1999

Title: An act relating to cougar hunting.

Brief Description: Allowing a county legislative authority to authorize the hunting of cougar with dogs.

Sponsors: Senators Roach and Rossi.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, PARKS & RECREATION

Staff: Ross Antipa (786-7413)

Background: Cougar hunting with the use of dogs was banned by Initiative 655 in December 1996. Cougar populations are stalking or attacking humans or domestic livestock in certain areas of the state. Cougar hunting with the aid of dogs is the most efficient way to control cougar populations.

County authorities are familiar with the cougar problems within their jurisdiction and could be given authority to control cougar.

Summary of Bill: A county legislative authority may approve an ordinance to allow hunting cougar with dogs if legal notice is given and a public meeting is held.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.