

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5729

As of January 22, 2002

Title: An act relating to the private possession of dangerous wild animals.

Brief Description: Preventing private ownership of dangerous wild animals.

Sponsors: Senators Thibaudeau, Patterson, Fairley, Winsley, Kohl-Welles, Jacobsen, Haugen, Prentice, Costa, Regala, Kline, Carlson and Rasmussen.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Natural Resources, Parks & Shorelines: 1/30/02.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, PARKS & SHORELINES

Staff: Ross Antipa (786-7413)

Background: There are no restrictions on the ownership or possession of dangerous animals, except for those members which exist in Washington in the wild state which are controlled by Department of Fish and Wildlife hunting regulations.

Restrictions on ownership and possession of dangerous animals would promote public safety and protect the welfare of animals.

Summary of Bill: It is unlawful to own, possess, keep, or harbor a wide variety of large cats, wolves, bears, monkeys, snakes, lizards, and crocodiles.

Exceptions to the prohibition include accredited zoos and aquaria, licensed humane societies, animal control officers, licensed veterinary hospitals and clinics, licensed wildlife rehabilitators, wildlife sanctuary, research or medical institutions, educational institutions, circus, rodeo, or trade shows, and temporary transportation through the state of less than 96 hours duration. Persons in legal possession of a dangerous animal prior to the date of the act may apply for a possession permit with the animal control authority. Dangerous wild animals must be marked with a subcutaneous microchip. Caging requirements are established by the animal control authority. Standards are set for humane treatment, transportation, recapture and relinquishment of possession of dangerous animals. A minimum of \$250,000 in liability insurance is required to insure against bodily injury or property damage. Violations of the act are punishable as a gross misdemeanor.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 22, 2002.

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