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Sponsor(s): Representatives Buck, Hatfield, Schoesler, Clements, Armstrong, Sump, Hinkle, Grant, Ericksen, Blake, Cairnes, Kessler, Linville, Haigh, Eickmeyer, Orcutt, Chandler, Pearson, Boldt, Mielke, Delvin, Newhouse and Mastin

Brief Description: Creating a humane, regulated animal trapping program.

HB 1254 - DIGEST

Finds that it is in the interest of all of the citizens of Washington to ensure that all trapping is done in accordance with sound scientific wildlife management principles using humane methods as set forth in this act.

Declares an intent to reinstate a sound furbearer management program, administered using sound science by the department of fish and wildlife, that addresses mammal population dynamics and animal damage issues.

Recognizes that among the choices available for the trapping of animals, some may cause pain and suffering in the animals captured.

Recognizes that some trapping methods can capture animals that are not targeted, including pets.

Declares it is the policy of the state of Washington to minimize the use of all indiscriminate or painful traps when practical alternatives exist, and when none do, to use traps when necessary in the most humane way possible. When lethal trapping methods are used, such methods must be used in the most humane way that accomplishes the goals of the wildlife management program. All trappers in the state should use all practicable means necessary to avoid the capture of a nontargeted animal.