

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1756

60th Legislature
2007 Regular Session

Passed by the House February 28, 2007
Yeas 96 Nays 0

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate April 10, 2007
Yeas 41 Nays 8

President of the Senate

Approved

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Richard Nafziger, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1756** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

Chief Clerk

FILED

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1756

Passed Legislature - 2007 Regular Session

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Kretz, Upthegrove, B. Sullivan, Blake, Takko and VanDeWege)

READ FIRST TIME 02/14/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to the department of fish and wildlife's hound
2 hunting cougar season pilot project; amending 2004 c 264 s 1
3 (uncodified); and creating a new section.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** 2004 c 264 s 1 (uncodified) is amended to read as follows:

6 (1) The department of fish and wildlife, in cooperation and
7 collaboration with the county legislative authorities of Ferry,
8 Stevens, Pend Oreille, Chelan, and Okanogan counties, shall recommend
9 rules to establish a three-year pilot program within select game
10 management units of these counties, to pursue or kill cougars with the
11 aid of dogs. A pursuit season and a kill season with the aid of dogs
12 must be established through the fish and wildlife commission's rule-
13 making process, utilizing local dangerous wildlife task teams comprised
14 of the two collaborating authorities. The two collaborating
15 authorities shall also develop a more effective and accurate dangerous
16 wildlife reporting system to ensure a timely response. The pilot
17 program's primary goals are to provide for public safety, to protect
18 property, and to assess cougar populations.

1 (2) Any rules adopted by the fish and wildlife commission to
2 establish a pilot project allowing for the pursuit or hunting of
3 cougars with the aid of dogs under this section only must ensure that
4 all pursuits or hunts are:

5 (a) Designed to protect public safety or property;

6 (b) Reflective of the most current cougar population data;

7 (c) Designed to generate data that is necessary for the department
8 to satisfy the reporting requirements of section 3 of this act; and

9 (d) Consistent with any applicable recommendations emerging from
10 research on cougar population dynamics in a multiprey environment
11 conducted by Washington State University's department of natural
12 resource sciences that was funded in whole or in part by the department
13 of fish and wildlife.

14 (3) The department of fish and wildlife may authorize one
15 additional season in which cougars may be pursued or killed with dogs,
16 subject to the other conditions of the pilot project. This additional
17 season is authorized to avoid a lag in cougar management and
18 conditioning between the end of the third pilot cougar season and the
19 time needed for the 2008 legislature to consider the report provided
20 under section 3, chapter 264, Laws of 2004, and is not intended to be
21 considered as part of the study period.

22 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A county legislative authority may request
23 inclusion in the fourth and final year of the cougar control pilot
24 project authorized by chapter 264, Laws of 2004 after taking the
25 following actions:

26 (1) Adopting a resolution that requests inclusion in the pilot
27 project;

28 (2) Documenting the need to participate in the pilot project by
29 identifying the number of cougar/human encounters and livestock and pet
30 depredations;

31 (3) Developing and agreeing to the implementation of an education
32 program designed to disseminate to landowners and other citizens
33 information about predator exclusion techniques and devices and other
34 nonlethal methods of cougar management; and

35 (4) Demonstrating that existing cougar depredation permits, public

1 safety cougar hunts, or other existing wildlife management tools have
2 not been sufficient to deal with cougar incidents in the county.

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