

HB 1756-S.E - DIGEST

(DIGEST AS ENACTED)

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

Authorizes a county legislative authority to request inclusion in the fourth and final year of the cougar control pilot project authorized by chapter 264, Laws of 2004 after taking the following actions: (1) Adopting a resolution that requests inclusion in the pilot project;

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

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

(4) Demonstrating that existing cougar depredation permits, public safety cougar hunts, or other existing wildlife management tools have not been sufficient to deal with cougar incidents in the county.