

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

HOUSE BILL 1516

Chapter 226, Laws of 2019

66th Legislature
2019 Regular Session

BLACK BEARS, COUGARS, AND BOBCATS--HUNTING AND PURSUIT WITH DOGS--
NONLETHAL TRAINING

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 28, 2019

Passed by the House March 4, 2019
Yeas 96 Nays 0

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate April 15, 2019
Yeas 46 Nays 1

CYRUS HABIB

President of the Senate

Approved April 30, 2019 3:02 PM

JAY INSLEE

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **HOUSE BILL 1516** as passed by House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BERNARD DEAN

Chief Clerk

FILED

May 1, 2019

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

HOUSE BILL 1516

Passed Legislature - 2019 Regular Session

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Blake, Dent, Chapman, Kretz, Walsh, Lekanoff, Orcutt, Springer, Pettigrew, Hoff, and Shea

Read first time 01/23/19. Referred to Committee on Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a department of fish and wildlife
2 directed nonlethal program for the purpose of training dogs; amending
3 RCW 77.15.245; and adding a new section to chapter 77.12 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 77.12
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The commission shall adopt by rule a process and criteria to
8 select persons who may act as agents of the state for the purpose of
9 using one or more dogs to hunt or pursue black bear, cougar, or
10 bobcat to protect livestock, domestic animals, private property, or
11 the public safety. The commission rule must outline the requirements
12 an applicant must comply with when applying for the program
13 including, but not limited to, a criminal background check.

14 (2) The department shall administer a training program to enable
15 persons who have been selected pursuant to subsection (1) of this
16 section to train dogs for use consistent with this section. The
17 purpose of this program is to provide dog training opportunities
18 using nonlethal pursuit.

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 77.15.245 and 2005 c 107 s 1 are each amended to
20 read as follows:

1 (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 77.12.240,
2 ((77.36.020,)) 77.36.030, or any other provisions of law, it is
3 unlawful to take, hunt, or attract black bear with the aid of bait.

4 (a) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the
5 killing of black bear with the aid of bait by employees or agents of
6 county, state, or federal agencies while acting in their official
7 capacities for the purpose of protecting livestock, domestic animals,
8 private property, or the public safety.

9 (b) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent the
10 establishment and operation of feeding stations for black bear in
11 order to prevent damage to commercial timberland.

12 (c) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the
13 director from issuing a permit or memorandum of understanding to a
14 public agency, university, or scientific or educational institution
15 for the use of bait to attract black bear for scientific purposes.

16 (d) As used in this subsection, "bait" means a substance placed,
17 exposed, deposited, distributed, scattered, or otherwise used for the
18 purpose of attracting black bears to an area where one or more
19 persons hunt or intend to hunt them.

20 (2) Notwithstanding RCW 77.12.240, ((77.36.020,)) 77.36.030, or
21 any other provisions of law, it is unlawful to hunt or pursue black
22 bear, cougar, or bobcat((,~~or~~lynx)) with the aid of a dog or dogs.

23 (a) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the
24 ((killing)) hunting of black bear, cougar, or bobcat((,~~or~~lynx))
25 with the aid of a dog or dogs by employees or agents of county,
26 state, or federal agencies while acting in their official capacities
27 for the purpose of protecting livestock, domestic animals, private
28 property, or the public safety. A dog or dogs may be used by the
29 owner or tenant of real property consistent with a permit issued and
30 conditioned by the director.

31 (b) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the
32 director from issuing a permit or memorandum of understanding to a
33 public agency, university, or scientific or educational institution
34 for the use of a dog or dogs for the pursuit, capture and relocation,
35 of black bear, cougar, or bobcat((,~~or~~lynx)) for scientific
36 purposes.

37 (c) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the
38 director from issuing a permit or memorandum of understanding to a
39 public agency, university, or scientific or educational institution
40 for the use of a dog or dogs for the killing of black bear, cougar,

1 or bobcat, for the protection of a state and/or federally listed
2 threatened or endangered species.

3 (d) Nothing in this subsection may be construed to prohibit
4 nonlethal pursuit training of dogs by persons selected through the
5 process established in section 1 of this act for future use for the
6 purpose of protecting livestock, domestic animals, private property,
7 or the public safety.

8 (3) ~~((a))~~ Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, the
9 commission ~~((shall))~~ may authorize the use of dogs only in selected
10 areas within a game management unit to address a public safety need
11 presented by one or more cougar. This authority may only be exercised
12 after the commission has determined that no other practical
13 alternative to the use of dogs exists, and after the commission has
14 adopted rules describing the conditions in which dogs may be used.
15 Conditions that may warrant the use of dogs within a game management
16 unit include, but are not limited to, confirmed cougar/human safety
17 incidents, confirmed cougar/livestock and cougar/pet depredations,
18 and the number of cougar capture attempts and relocations.

19 ~~((b) The department shall post on their internet web site the~~
20 ~~known details of all reported cougar/human, cougar/pet, or cougar/~~
21 ~~livestock interactions within ten days of receiving the report. The~~
22 ~~posted material must include, but is not limited to, the location and~~
23 ~~time of all reported sightings, and the known details of any cougar/~~
24 ~~livestock incidents.))~~

25 (4) A person who violates subsection (1) or (2) of this section
26 is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. In addition to appropriate criminal
27 penalties, the department shall revoke the hunting license of a
28 person who violates subsection (1) or (2) of this section and order
29 the suspension of wildlife hunting privileges for a period of five
30 years following the revocation. Following a subsequent violation of
31 subsection (1) or (2) of this section by the same person, a hunting
32 license shall not be issued to the person at any time.

Passed by the House March 4, 2019.
Passed by the Senate April 15, 2019.
Approved by the Governor April 30, 2019.
Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 1, 2019.

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