
HOUSE BILL 1976

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Donaghy, Bronoske, Parshley, Scott, and Obras

Read first time 02/14/25. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing awareness of the potential harm
2 caused by releasing pets or aquatic plants into the natural
3 environment; and adding a new chapter to Title 16 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The definitions in this section apply
6 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
7 otherwise.

8 (1) "Animal" means a nonhuman member of the kingdom animalia
9 encompassing all vertebrate and invertebrate species, including
10 mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, shellfish, and insects.

11 (2) "Aquatic invasive species" has the same meaning as in RCW
12 77.135.010.

13 (3) "Aquatic plant" has the same meaning as in RCW 77.135.010.

14 (4) "Invasive species" has the same meaning as in RCW 77.135.010.

15 (5) "Retail pet store" means a commercial establishment that
16 engages in a for-profit business of selling at retail animals to be
17 kept as household pets and is regulated by the United States
18 department of agriculture.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A retail pet store that sells animals as
20 pets, including exotic animals, or aquatic plants shall provide to

1 customers who purchase an animal or aquatic plant an informational
2 pamphlet prepared by the Washington invasive species council
3 established under RCW 79A.25.320 that is related to either the animal
4 family or the aquatic plant the customer purchases. At a minimum, the
5 pamphlet shall include information about:

6 (1) Invasive species or aquatic invasive species and the threat
7 these species present to native ecosystems;

8 (2) Problems that can arise if an animal with no natural
9 predators is released into the natural environment;

10 (3) Actions a customer can take in the event the customer needs
11 to rehome an animal, including a list of entities who may accept the
12 animal;

13 (4) Actions a customer can take in the event the customer needs
14 to dispose of unwanted aquatic plant material;

15 (5) Additional resources to identify invasive species and
16 invasive aquatic species, including how aquatic plants can sometimes
17 harbor invasive species; and

18 (6) Applicable state laws that prohibit the possession,
19 transport, or trafficking of prohibited invasive species and aquatic
20 invasive species.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act constitute a
22 new chapter in Title 16 RCW.

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