HLS 16RS-1861 ORIGINAL

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 999

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BY REPRESENTATIVE LEOPOLD

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES: Requires the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to adopt rules to control and prohibit the importation and private possession of big exotic cats

1 AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 56:6(31), relative to powers of the Wildlife and Fisheries

Commission; to require the commission to adopt rules to control and prohibit the

importation and possession of big exotic cats; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 56:6(31) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§6. Special powers and duties; statistics; rules and regulations; reports

The commission, through its secretary:

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(31) Shall promulgate rules and regulations to control <u>and prohibit</u> the importation and private possession of big exotic cats including but not limited to tigers, lions, leopards, jaguars, cheetahs, and hybrids resulting from cross-breeding of such cats. The rules shall provide exceptions for big cats traditionally kept by colleges and universities as school mascots, animal sanctuaries, zoos, wildlife research centers, and scientific organizations. Such rules shall address Internet purchase of such animals. Such rules shall also provide for permits for certain institutions and for owners who can prove previous ownership. Previous ownership shall include persons who obtained their animal by lawful means and continuously possessed their animal since August 15, 2006. Violation of rules and regulations

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

1 adopted pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph constitutes a class two violation

2 punishable as provided in R.S. 56:32.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 999 Original

2016 Regular Session

Leopold

Abstract: Requires the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to adopt rules to control and prohibit the importation and possession of big exotic cats.

<u>Present law</u> requires the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to adopt rules to control the importation and possession of big exotic cats. Provides for certain exceptions.

<u>Proposed law</u> would require the rule to also allow the commission to prohibit the importation and possession of big exotic cats.

(Amends R.S. 56:6(31))