

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 999

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

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 56:6(31), relative to powers of the Wildlife and Fisheries
3 Commission; to require the commission to adopt rules to control and prohibit the
4 importation and possession of big exotic cats; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

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

8 The commission, through its secretary:

9 * * *

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

