

Regular Session, 2006

HOUSE BILL NO. 795

BY REPRESENTATIVE TRICHE

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES: Requires the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to control importation and ownership of big exotic cats

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 56:6(31), relative to importation of certain animals; to require the Wildlife and
3 Fisheries Commission to control the importation and ownership of big exotic cats;
4 to provide for penalties; 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 enacted 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 the importation and
11 private possession of big exotic cats including but not limited to tigers, lions,
12 leopards, jaguars, cheetahs, and hybrids resulting from cross-breeding of such cats.
13 The rules shall provide exceptions for big cats traditionally kept by colleges and
14 universities as school mascots, animal sanctuaries, zoos, wildlife research centers,
15 and scientific organizations. Such rules shall address Internet purchase of such
16 animals. Such rules shall also provide for permits for certain institutions and for
17 owners who can prove previous ownership. Violation of rules and regulations
18 adopted pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph constitutes a class two violation
19 punishable as provided in R.S. 56:32.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument.

Triche

HB No. 795

Abstract: Requires the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to control the importation and ownership of big exotic cats.

Proposed law requires the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to promulgate rules and regulations to control the importation and possession of big exotic cats. Authorizes exceptions for cats traditionally kept by colleges and universities as mascots, animal sanctuaries, zoos, research centers, scientific organizations, and medical research facilities. Provides for permits for owners who could prove previous ownership.

Provides that violations of the rules are class two violations punishable as follows:

1st offense	\$100 - \$350	or	imprisonment not more than 60 days, or both
2nd offense	\$300 - \$550	&	imprisonment between 30 and 60 days
3rd +	\$500 - \$750	&	imprisonment between 60 and 90 days, and forfeiture

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

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Natural Resources to the original bill.

1. Provides that violations are class two violations.