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HB No. 795

(KEYWORD, SUMMARY, AND DIGEST as amended by Senate committee amendments)

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

DIGEST

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 |

Present law provides that certain violators upon conviction are subject to the forfeiture of any quadrupeds, birds, or fish seized in connection with the violation.

Proposed law adds "other animals" to "quadrupeds, birds, or fish" as being subject to forfeiture for certain violations.

(Amends R.S. 56:39(A); 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.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Natural Resources to the engrossed bill.

1. Adds "other animals" to "quadrupeds, birds, or fish" as being subject to forfeiture for certain violations.