

1 animals. Such rules shall also provide for permits for certain institutions and for
 2 owners who can prove previous ownership. **Previous ownership shall include**
 3 **persons who obtained their animal by lawful means and continuously possessed**
 4 **their animal since August 15, 2006.** Violation of rules and regulations adopted
 5 pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph constitutes a class two violation
 6 punishable as provided in R.S. 56:32.

7 * * *

8 Section 2. The provisions of this Act shall be given retroactive application.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by McHenry Lee.

DIGEST

Ward (SB 250)

Present law provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission through its secretary may promulgate rules and regulations to control the importation and private possession of big exotic cats. Requires that the rules provide exceptions for big cats traditionally kept by colleges and universities, animal sanctuaries, zoos, wildlife research centers, and scientific organizations and for owners who can prove previous ownership.

Proposed law provides that previous ownership will include persons who obtained their animal by lawful means and continuously possessed their animal since August 15, 2006.

Proposed law provides for retroactive application.

Effective August 1, 2014.

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

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Natural Resources to the original bill

1. Removes the exception for owners who hold a USDA class C exhibitor's license.
2. Changes what is considered previous ownership.