ENROLLED

Regular Session, 2006

HOUSE BILL NO. 795

BY REPRESENTATIVE TRICHE

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 56:39(A) and to enact R.S. 56:6(31), relative to importation of certain animals; to require the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to control the importation and ownership of big exotic cats; to provide relative to certain penalties, including forfeiture; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 56:39(A) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 56:6(31) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

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

The commission, through its secretary:

* * *

<u>(31) Shall promulgate rules and regulations to control 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. Violation of rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph constitutes a class two violation punishable as provided in R.S. 56:32.</u>

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

§39. Forfeiture of quadrupeds, birds, and fish; Fish and Wildlife Violations Reward Fund, creation and use of fund monies

A. In addition to all other penalties provided in this Chapter, violators subject to the provisions of R.S. 56:31 through R.S. 56:37.1 shall upon conviction forfeit any quadrupeds, birds, ~~or~~ fish, or other animals seized in connection with said violation.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____

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