
SENATE BILL 5594

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senators Hargrove and Roach

Read first time 02/03/97. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to the protection of livestock, domestic animals,
2 private property, and the public safety from black bear, cougar,
3 bobcat, and lynx by agents of the department of fish and wildlife;
4 adding a new section to chapter 77.36 RCW; and declaring an emergency.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 77.36 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 The legislature finds that it is necessary for the protection of
9 livestock, domestic animals, private property, and the public safety
10 from black bear, cougar, bobcat, and lynx to provide for the taking of
11 black bear, cougar, bobcat, and lynx by agents of the department of
12 fish and wildlife in accordance with rules established by the fish and
13 wildlife commission.

14 (1) As used in this section, "agent" means a person who:

15 (a) Is a member of a nonprofit organization organized under the
16 laws of the state of Washington which promotes sportsmanship while
17 using dogs in the taking of black bear, cougar, bobcat, and lynx;

1 (b) Has had five years' experience in the legal taking of black
2 bear, cougar, bobcat, or lynx, or is an apprentice as defined in
3 subsection (2) of this section; and

4 (c) Has paid an agency fee as established by subsection (3) of this
5 section.

6 (2) As used in this section, "apprentice" means a person who meets
7 all of the qualifications of an agent except for the five years'
8 experience, and is working under the direct supervision of an agent who
9 is not currently an apprentice.

10 (3) Every person desiring recognition as an agent must provide to
11 the department of fish and wildlife a notarized attestation of
12 qualifications on a form provided by the department and will pay an
13 annual fee of fifteen dollars. The fish and wildlife commission may
14 adjust the fee each biennium to a level adequate to cover the cost of
15 processing the forms. An apprentice must provide the name of the agent
16 who will be the direct supervisor.

17 (4) The fish and wildlife commission will, by rule, establish
18 procedures for the taking by agents of targeted animals and numbers of
19 animals in specific geographic areas during specific times. Specific
20 damage prevention and control and general control of animal populations
21 to ensure the public safety from excess numbers of black bear, cougar,
22 bobcat, or lynx must be the purpose of all takings under this
23 subsection.

24 (5) Agents will serve without compensation except for the retaining
25 of the remains of the animal taken as provided by the fish and wildlife
26 commission by rule.

27 (6) The state shall indemnify and hold harmless its agent or
28 apprentice in the amount of a judgment obtained or fine levied against
29 an agent or apprentice in a state or federal court, or in the amount of
30 the settlement of a claim, or shall pay the judgment, fine, or
31 settlement, if the act or omission that gave rise to the civil or
32 criminal liability was in good faith and occurred while the agent or
33 apprentice was acting within the scope of his or her employment or
34 duties and the agent or apprentice is being represented in accordance
35 with RCW 4.92.070.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate
37 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the

1 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
2 immediately.

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