

2807-S

Sponsor(s): House Committee on Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Pennington, Alexander and Mielke)

Brief Title: Requiring the department of agriculture to draft guidelines for keeping lions, tigers, and other nonindigenous cat species.

HB 2807-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Directs the department of health, working in close consultation with the departments of fish and wildlife and agriculture, to establish a set of guidelines for the proper keeping of lions, tigers, and other cat species, not included in the statutory definition of wildlife in RCW 77.08.010, as pets.

Provides that a city, town, or county legislative authority may prohibit by ordinance the keeping of lions, tigers, and other nonindigenous cat species other than domestic cats as pets within the boundaries of the local government.

Provides that a person who keeps a tiger, lion, or other nonindigenous cat species other than domestic cats as a pet is liable for any damages incurred by a person, local government, or state agency resulting from the escape from custody of the animal. Damages include any court costs and reasonable attorney's fees. The person is also liable for costs incurred by local enforcement agents dealing with abandonment and relocation of these animals.