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HOUSE BILL 2720

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Ericksen, Pennington and Mulliken

Read first time 01/19/2000. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to cougar hunting authorized by county legislative  
2 authorities; amending RCW 77.16.360; adding a new section to chapter  
3 77.04 RCW; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 77.16.360 and 1997 c 1 s 1 are each amended to read as  
6 follows:

7 (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 77.12.240 and 77.12.265  
8 or other provisions of law, it is unlawful to take, hunt, or attract  
9 black bear with the aid of bait.

10 (a) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the  
11 killing of black bear with the aid of bait by employees or agents of  
12 county, state, or federal agencies while acting in their official  
13 capacities for the purpose of protecting livestock, domestic animals,  
14 private property, or the public safety.

15 (b) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent the  
16 establishment and operation of feeding stations for black bear in order  
17 to prevent damage to commercial timberland.

18 (c) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the  
19 director from issuing a permit or memorandum of understanding to a

1 public agency, university, or scientific or educational institution for  
2 the use of bait to attract black bear for scientific purposes.

3 (d) As used in this subsection, "bait" means a substance placed,  
4 exposed, deposited, distributed, scattered, or otherwise used for the  
5 purpose of attracting black bears to an area where one or more persons  
6 hunt or intend to hunt them.

7 (2) Notwithstanding RCW 77.12.240 or any other provisions of law,  
8 it is unlawful to hunt or pursue black bear, cougar, bobcat, or lynx  
9 with the aid of a dog or dogs.

10 (a) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the  
11 killing of black bear, cougar, bobcat, or lynx with the aid of a dog or  
12 dogs by employees or agents of county, state, or federal agencies while  
13 acting in their official capacities for the purpose of protecting  
14 livestock, domestic animals, private property, or the public safety.  
15 A dog or dogs may be used by the owner or tenant of real property  
16 consistent with a permit issued and conditioned by the director under  
17 RCW 77.12.265.

18 (b) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the  
19 director from issuing a permit or memorandum of understanding to a  
20 public agency, university, or scientific or educational institution for  
21 the use of a dog or dogs for the pursuit of black bear, cougar, bobcat,  
22 or lynx for scientific purposes.

23 (c) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the  
24 killing of cougar with the aid of a dog or dogs when a county  
25 legislative authority authorizes the commission to establish a hunting  
26 season as allowed under section 2 of this act.

27 (3) A person who violates subsection (1) or (2) of this section is  
28 guilty of a gross misdemeanor. In addition to appropriate criminal  
29 penalties, the director shall revoke the hunting license of a person  
30 who violates subsection (1) or (2) of this section and a hunting  
31 license shall not be issued for a period of five years following the  
32 revocation. Following a subsequent violation of subsection (1) or (2)  
33 of this section by the same person, a hunting license shall not be  
34 issued to the person at any time.

35 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 77.04 RCW  
36 to read as follows:

37 (1) The legislative authority of any county may by appropriate  
38 legislation authorize the commission to establish a hunting season for

1 cougar that allows the killing of cougar with the aid of a dog or dogs  
2 within the borders of the authorizing county.

3 (2) If authorized by the legislative authority of a county under  
4 subsection (1) of this section, the commission may establish a hunting  
5 season for cougar that allows the killing of cougar with the aid of a  
6 dog or dogs. Hunting seasons established by the commission as  
7 authorized by a county legislative authority shall be organized by game  
8 management units. Seasons can be established for one game management  
9 unit or multiple game management units. However, the commission shall  
10 only establish a season for game management units that fall wholly  
11 within the boundaries of the authorizing county.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
13 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
14 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
15 immediately.

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