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SENATE BILL 5068

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators Roach, Honeyford, Stevens, T. Sheldon, Swecker, Rossi and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/11/1999. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation.

1 AN ACT Relating to hunting cougar with the aid of dogs; amending  
2 RCW 77.16.360; adding new sections to chapter 77.12 RCW; and  
3 prescribing penalties.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 77.12 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 The legislature finds that the control of cougar populations is  
8 necessary to insure public safety, and the most suitable means for  
9 cougar population control is by authorizing public hunting with dogs.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 77.16.360 and 1997 c 1 s 1 (Initiative Measure No.  
11 655) are each amended to read as follows:

12 (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 77.12.240 and  
13 (~~77.12.265~~) 77.36.030 or other provisions of law, it is unlawful to  
14 take, hunt, or attract black bear with the aid of bait.

15 (a) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the  
16 killing of black bear with the aid of bait by employees or agents of  
17 county, state, or federal agencies while acting in their official

1 capacities for the purpose of protecting livestock, domestic animals,  
2 private property, or the public safety.

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

6 (c) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the  
7 director from issuing a permit or memorandum of understanding to a  
8 public agency, university, or scientific or educational institution for  
9 the use of bait to attract black bear for scientific purposes.

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

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

17 (a) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the  
18 killing of black bear, cougar, bobcat, or lynx with the aid of a dog or  
19 dogs by employees or agents of county, state, or federal agencies while  
20 acting in their official capacities for the purpose of protecting  
21 livestock, domestic animals, private property, or the public safety.  
22 A dog or dogs may be used by the owner or tenant of real property  
23 consistent with (~~(a permit issued and conditioned by the director under~~  
24 ~~RCW 77.12.265)) RCW 77.36.030.~~

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

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

1        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 3.**   A new section is added to chapter 77.12 RCW  
2 to read as follows:

3        The fish and wildlife commission shall authorize public  
4 recreational hunting with dogs for cougar population control and to  
5 control cougar migration for prevention of the movement of cougar into  
6 areas of the state with high-human population density whenever the  
7 hunting season is declared open for cougar.

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