
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6279

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development
(originally sponsored by Senators Haugen and Rasmussen)

Read first time 02/01/2000.

1 AN ACT Relating to exotic pets; creating a new section; making an
2 appropriation; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that many people
5 own and raise exotic pets in the state of Washington. The legislature
6 further finds that there are many issues surrounding exotic pets
7 including but not limited to the educational value of diverse species,
8 health and safety concerns, and environmental issues. The legislature
9 further finds that legislation has been enacted in other states
10 regulating private citizens' possession of exotic pets. Since
11 legislation in other states may not fit the needs of Washington's
12 citizens, the legislature finds that a study about the issues of owning
13 and breeding exotic pets will help determine the best public policy in
14 Washington, balancing the best interests of all of the citizens.

15 (2) The department of agriculture shall appoint a task force to
16 study the issue of regulating exotic pets in the state of Washington.
17 The task force shall include but not be limited to representatives of
18 the department of agriculture, the department of fish and wildlife, the
19 department of health, and local government; owners and breeders of

1 exotic pets; pet stores; veterinarians; zoologists; zoo veterinarians;
2 animal control agencies; humane societies; and interested citizens.
3 The task force shall look at issues surrounding exotic pets including
4 but not limited to: The definition of exotic pets, the safety and
5 health of people, domestic animals and wildlife, the protection of
6 agriculture, the cost of regulating exotic pets, and the issue of
7 state-wide uniformity versus local control. By December 1, 2001, the
8 task force shall submit its recommendations, including any recommended
9 statutory or rule changes, to the committees in the senate and the
10 house of representatives having jurisdiction over agricultural issues.

11 (3) The following shall not be included in the study required in
12 this section: Llamas and alpacas; ratites including ostriches and emu;
13 American bison reared in captivity; and species of animals that have
14 been designated by rule as deleterious exotic wildlife by the
15 department of fish and wildlife.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act expires December 1, 2001.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of forty-five thousand dollars, or
18 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal
19 year ending June 30, 2001, from the general fund to the department of
20 agriculture for the purposes of this act.

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