

6285

Sponsor(s): Senators Oke, Doumit, Roach, Swecker, Stevens, Morton, Winsley, T. Sheldon, Sheahan, Jacobsen, Rasmussen, Haugen, Hargrove, Berkey, Hale, Honeyford, Mulliken and Parlette

Brief Description: Providing for a regulated trapping program in the state.

**SB 6285 - DIGEST**

(SUBSTITUTED FOR - SEE 1ST SUB)

Finds that it is in the interest of all of the citizens of Washington to ensure that all trapping is done in accordance with sound scientific wildlife management principles using humane methods as set forth in this act.

Declares an intent that the state trapping program be administered using sound science by the department of fish and wildlife, and that the primary emphasis of this program addresses animal problems as defined in RCW 77.08.010.

Finds that the current furbearer management program, utilizing only nonlethal trapping techniques, is an effective method of regulating predator and aquatic mammal species. It is the intent of the legislature to continue the current furbearer management program.

Finds that humane, regulated trapping practices used to control animals contribute positively to the well-being of the state of Washington, to public health and welfare by assisting to control the spread of animal-borne disease, and to the protection of private and public property from damage resulting from uncontrolled animal populations.

Finds that the sale, trade, or barter of wild animal pelts is consistent with the legislature's intent not to waste a valuable wildlife resource.

Declares that it is the policy of the state of Washington to minimize the use of indiscriminate or painful traps and to use all traps humanely. When lethal trapping methods are used, such methods must be used in the most humane way that accomplishes the goal of reducing animal problems. All persons trapping wild animals and wild birds in the state shall use all practicable means necessary to avoid the capture of a nontargeted animal.

Declares that it is unlawful to trap wild animals or wild birds, other than nuisance wildlife species, using body-gripping traps except by nuisance wildlife control operators and trappers licensed by the department under RCW 77.65.450 when operating under a trapping permit issued by the department, by persons operating under a scientific collector permit, by persons operating under a falconry permit, or by landowners and their agents under the provisions of RCW 77.36.030.

Directs the commission to adopt appropriate rules regarding the types of traps and bait for use in capturing wild animals and wild birds to ensure the humane treatment of captured animals. In adopting these rules, the commission may take into consideration the effectiveness of various trap sizes, approved best management

practices, and the habitats in which the traps may be used.

Declares that these rules may not allow for the use of traps with teeth or serrated edges or a neck or body snare attached to a spring pole or any spring pole type device.