

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5123

As of January 21, 2009

Title: An act relating to mole trapping.

Brief Description: Regarding mole trapping.

Sponsors: Senators Pridemore and McDermott.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, OCEAN & RECREATION

Staff: Karen Epps (786-7424)

Background: It is a gross misdemeanor to use any body-gripping trap, which is defined as a trap that grips an animal or an animal's body part, to capture any mammal, or to use a leghold or neck snare trap to capture a mammal for recreation or commerce. Common rat and mouse traps are exempt from the definition of body-gripping traps.

The Director of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife may grant permits to use certain traps in limited circumstances, including for the protection of public health and safety. Before an individual can be issued a 30-day special permit, that individual must show in writing that the problem cannot be reasonably controlled by non-lethal means. The holders of special permits are required to inspect any traps at least once daily.

Summary of Bill: This bill would exempt any trap used to capture moles below the ground surface from the definition of a body-gripping trap.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

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