

SENATE BILL NO. 250

BY SENATOR WARD

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 56:6(31), to provide for the promulgation of rules and regulations by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission relative to the possession of big exotic cats; to allow for permits for certain institutions and owners; to exempt certain persons from the requirements of the big exotic cats rules; to provide terms, conditions, and requirements; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 56:6(31) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§6. Special powers and duties; statistics; rules and regulations; reports

The commission, through its secretary:

\* \* \*

(31) Shall promulgate rules and regulations to control the importation and private possession of big exotic cats including but not limited to tigers, lions, leopards, jaguars, cheetahs, and hybrids resulting from cross-breeding of such cats. The rules shall provide exceptions for big cats traditionally kept by colleges and universities as school mascots, animal sanctuaries, zoos, wildlife research centers, and scientific organizations. Such rules shall address Internet purchase of such animals. Such rules shall also provide for permits for certain institutions and for owners who can prove previous ownership. **Previous ownership shall include persons who obtained their animal by lawful means and continuously possessed their animal since August 15, 2006.** Violation of rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph constitutes a class two violation

1 punishable as provided in R.S. 56:32.

2 \* \* \*

3 Section 2. The provisions of this Act shall be given retroactive application.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_