

HCS HB 1441 -- LARGE CARNIVORE ACT (Sutherland)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Agriculture Policy

This substitute establishes the Large Carnivore Act which prohibits the owning, breeding, possession, transferring of ownership, or transporting of "large carnivores," defined as certain nonnative cats of the Felidae family or any species of bear except as provided in the substitute.

Any person who owns or possesses a large carnivore is liable in a civil action for the death or injury of a human or another animal and for any property damage caused by the large carnivore. If a large carnivore escapes or is released intentionally or unintentionally, the owner is required to immediately notify law enforcement and is liable for all expenses associated with the efforts to recapture the large carnivore. As a condition of being permitted to own a large carnivore, the owner is required to show proof of having liability insurance in an amount of not less than \$250,000 for each large carnivore.

Requirements for the permitting, confinement, handling, sanitation, feeding, transporting, identification, veterinary care, seizure, and euthanasia of large carnivores are specified. The requirements are in addition to any applicable state or federal law and do not preclude any local political subdivision from adopting more restrictive laws. Certain entities, law enforcement officials, animal control officers, and veterinarians are exempt from the substitute.

The penalty for violations varies according to the severity of the offense.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.