

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 4, 2001

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 17, 2001

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1093**

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**Introduced by Senators Johannessen, Alpert, and Figueroa  
(Coauthors: Senators Battin, Haynes, Kuehl, Monteith, and  
Oller)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aanestad, Koretz, Leach, Maddox,  
Maldonado, Runner, and Strickland)

February 23, 2001

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An act to add Chapter 2.5 (commencing with Section 2220) to Division 3 of the Fish and Game Code, relating to wild animals, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1093, as amended, Johannessen. Wild animals: domestic ferrets.

Existing law prohibits the importation, transportation, possession, or release into this state of certain wild animals without a permit issued by the Department of Fish and Game.

This bill would provide, notwithstanding any other provision of law, that any person who owns a domestic ferret on May 1, 2001, is deemed to own the ferret legally on and after January 1, 2002, if on or before January 1, 2002, the owner of the ferret maintains, and is able to produce, documentation showing that the ferret has been spayed or neutered and vaccinated against rabies with a vaccine approved for use in ferrets by the United States Department of Agriculture and administered in accordance with the recommendations of the vaccine manufacturer. The bill would authorize a county to adopt an ordinance

that provides for licensing requirements, enforcement methods, and other regulatory measures related to the ownership or possession of a ferret in that county.

~~The bill also would require the Department of Fish and Game, in consultation with other state agencies, to conduct a study to determine the current and potential impacts, if any, of ferrets on the environment, native wildlife, agriculture, and public health and safety, relative to other domesticated animals. The bill would require submission of the report to the Legislature and the Fish and Game Commission on or before April 1, 2003. The bill would require the commission, based on the report, other relevant information, and public testimony, to make a determination whether to remove the ferret from the list of prohibited species. The bill would prohibit the Department of Fish and Game and the consulting departments from releasing ferrets into the wild for purposes of the study.~~

Existing law continuously appropriates money in the Fish and Game Preservation Fund to the commission and the department to pay all necessary expenses incurred in carrying out any law for the protection and preservation of birds, mammals, reptiles, and fish.

By imposing new duties on the commission ~~and the department~~, this bill would make an appropriation.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 2.5 (commencing with Section 2220) is  
2 added to Division 3 of the Fish and Game Code, to read:

3  
4 CHAPTER 2.5. DOMESTIC FERRETS

5  
6 2220. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any  
7 person who owns a domestic ferret (*Mustela furo*) on May 1, 2001,  
8 shall be deemed to own the ferret legally on and after January 1,  
9 2002, if all of the following conditions are met:

10 (1) On or before January 1, 2002, the owner of the ferret shall  
11 maintain, and be able to produce, documentation showing that the  
12 ferret has been spayed or neutered, and vaccinated against rabies  
13 with a vaccine approved for use in ferrets by the United States



1 Department of Agriculture and administered in accordance with  
2 the recommendations of the vaccine manufacturer.

3 (2) If the ferret is spayed or neutered in California, the  
4 procedure shall be performed by a licensed veterinarian.

5 (b) Any county may adopt an ordinance that provides for  
6 licensing requirements, enforcement methods, and other  
7 regulatory measures related to the ownership or possession of a  
8 ferret in that county.

9 ~~2221. (a) The Department of Fish and Game, in consultation  
10 with the State Department of Health Services and the Department  
11 of Food and Agriculture, shall use existing resources to conduct a  
12 study to determine the current and potential impacts, if any, of  
13 ferrets on the environment, native wildlife, agriculture, and public  
14 health and safety, relative to other domesticated animals. The  
15 department shall also include in the study an estimate of the  
16 number of ferrets in California and relevant information from  
17 other states.~~

18 ~~(b) Neither the Department of Fish and Game nor the  
19 consulting departments shall release ferrets into the wild for  
20 purposes of the study.~~

21 ~~(c) The report shall be submitted to the Legislature and the Fish  
22 and Game Commission on or before April 1, 2003.~~

23 ~~(d) The commission, based on the report, other relevant  
24 information, and public testimony, shall make a determination~~

25 *SEC. 2. The commission, based on relevant information and*  
26 *public testimony, shall make a determination* whether to remove  
27 the ferret from the list of prohibited species. The commission shall  
28 commence public testimony by October 2003.

