

Assembly Bill No. 560

CHAPTER 435

An act to amend Section 4801 of the Fish and Game Code, relating to wildlife, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

[Approved by Governor September 17, 1999. Filed
with Secretary of State September 17, 1999.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 560, Oller. Wildlife: mountain lions.

Proposition 117, an initiative measure approved by the voters at the June 5, 1990, primary election, enacted the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990. Among other things, the act made the mountain lion a specially protected mammal. The act prohibits the Legislature from changing the special protection of that mammal except by a $\frac{4}{5}$ vote of the membership of both houses of the Legislature and then only consistent with, and in furtherance of, the purposes of the act.

The act authorizes the Department of Fish and Game to remove or take any mountain lion, or authorize an appropriate local agency with public safety responsibility to remove or take any mountain lion, that is perceived to be an imminent threat to public health or safety.

This bill would, instead, authorize the department to remove or take, or authorize an appropriate local agency with public safety responsibility to remove or take, any mountain lion that is perceived to be an imminent threat to public health or safety or that is perceived by the department to be an imminent threat to the survival of any threatened, endangered, candidate, or fully protected sheep species. The bill would state the legislative finding and declaration that this change is consistent with, and furthers the purposes of, the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990.

The bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

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

SECTION 1. Section 4801 of the Fish and Game Code is amended to read:

4801. The department may remove or take any mountain lion, or authorize an appropriate local agency with public safety responsibility to remove or take any mountain lion, that is perceived to be an imminent threat to public health or safety or that is perceived by the department to be an imminent threat to the



survival of any threatened, endangered, candidate, or fully protected sheep species.

SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares that the amendments made by this act to Section 4801 of the Fish and Game Code are consistent with, and further the purposes of, the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990.

SEC. 3. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

In order to prevent the extinction of the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep as soon as possible, thereby protecting the environment, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.

