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576-02635-17

Proposed Committee Substitute by the Committee on Appropriations
(Appropriations Subcommittee on the Environment and Natural
Resources)

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to nonnative animals; creating s.
379.2311, F.S.; defining the terms "pet dealer" and
"priority invasive species"; requiring the Fish and
Wildlife Conservation Commission to establish a pilot
program for the eradication of priority invasive
species; providing legislative findings; providing
goals for the pilot program; authorizing the
commission to enter into specified contracts;
specifying parameters for the implementation of the
pilot program; specifying procedures for handling
captures and the disposal of the animals; requiring
the commission to submit a report to the Governor and
the Legislature by a specified date; requiring certain
nonnative species to be implanted with a passive
integrated transponder before sale, resale, or being
offered for sale by a pet dealer; requiring the
commission to adopt rules; providing appropriations;
providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 379.2311, Florida Statutes, is created
to read:

379.2311 Nonnative animal management.-

(1) As used in this section, the term:



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27 (a) "Pet dealer" means any person who, in the ordinary
28 course of business, engages in the sale of more than 20 animals
29 per year to the public. This term includes breeders who sell
30 animals directly to consumers.

31 (b) "Priority invasive species" means the following
32 species:

33 1. Lizards known as tegu lizards, consisting of the genera
34 Tupinambis and Salvator, and any taxonomic synonymies of such
35 genera.

36 2. Species listed in s. 379.372(2)(a).

37 3. Pterois volitans, also known as red lionfish.

38 4. Pterois miles, also known as the common lionfish or
39 devil firefish.

40 (2) The commission shall establish a pilot program to
41 mitigate the impact of priority invasive species on the public
42 lands or waters of this state.

43 (a) The Legislature finds that priority invasive species
44 continue to expand their range and to decimate the fauna and
45 flora of the Everglades and other natural areas and ecosystems
46 in the southern and central parts of the state at an
47 accelerating rate.

48 (b) The goal of the pilot program is to examine the
49 benefits of using strategically deployed, trained private
50 contractors to slow the advance of these nonnative animals,
51 contain their populations, and eradicate them from this state.

52 (c) To implement the pilot program, the commission may
53 enter into contracts in accordance with chapter 287 with
54 entities or individuals to capture or destroy these nonnative
55 animals found on public lands or in the waters of the state. Any



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56 private contracted work to be performed on public land or in the
57 waters of the state not owned or managed by the commission must
58 have the consent of the owner.

59 (d) The commission shall ensure that all captures and
60 disposals of these nonnative animals are documented and that the
61 geographic location of the take is recorded for research
62 purposes. The commission shall direct the disposal of all
63 animals captured and not destroyed in removal efforts.

64 (e) The commission shall submit a report of findings and
65 recommendations regarding its implementation of the pilot
66 program to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the
67 Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2020.

68 (3) Before selling, reselling, or offering for sale any
69 nonnative animal specified by the commission pursuant to
70 paragraph (a), pet dealers must implant in the animal or have
71 the animal implanted with a passive integrated transponder (PIT)
72 tag as specified by the commission. The commission shall adopt
73 rules implementing this subsection, including:

74 (a) Identifying nonnative animals that threaten the state's
75 wildlife habitats and therefore must be implanted with a PIT
76 tag; and

77 (b) Establishing a standard for the types of PIT tags which
78 must be used by pet dealers and the manner in which they must be
79 implanted.

80 Section 2. For the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 fiscal years,
81 the sum of \$300,000 each year in nonrecurring funds is
82 appropriated from the State Game Trust Fund to the Fish and
83 Wildlife Conservation Commission for the purpose of implementing
84 s. 379.2311.



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Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.