

2018168e1

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to nonnative animals; creating s.
3 379.2311, F.S.; defining the term "priority invasive
4 species"; providing legislative findings; requiring
5 the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to
6 establish a pilot program for the eradication of
7 priority invasive species; providing the goal of the
8 pilot program; authorizing the commission to enter
9 into specified contracts; specifying parameters for
10 the implementation of the pilot program; specifying
11 procedures for the capture and disposal of animals
12 that belong to priority invasive species; requiring
13 the commission to submit a report to the Governor and
14 the Legislature by a specified date; providing an
15 effective date.

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

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

21 379.2311 Nonnative animal management.-

22 (1) As used in this section, the term "priority invasive
23 species" means the following:

24 (a) Lizards of the genus *Tupinambis*, also known as tegu
25 lizards;

26 (b) Species identified in s. 379.372(2)(a);

27 (c) *Pterois volitans*, also known as red lionfish; and

28 (d) *Pterois miles*, also known as the common lionfish or
29 devil firefish.

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30 (2) The Legislature finds that priority invasive species
31 continue to expand their range and to decimate the fauna and
32 flora of the Everglades and other natural areas and ecosystems
33 in the southern and central parts of the state at an
34 accelerating rate. Therefore, the commission shall establish a
35 pilot program to mitigate the impact of priority invasive
36 species on the public lands or waters of this state.

37 (a) The goal of the pilot program is to examine the
38 benefits of using strategically deployed, trained private
39 contractors to slow the advance of priority invasive species,
40 contain their populations, and eradicate them from this state.

41 (b) In implementing the pilot program, the commission may
42 enter into contracts in accordance with chapter 287 with
43 entities or individuals to capture or destroy animals belonging
44 to priority invasive species found on public lands or in the
45 waters of this state. Any private contracted work to be
46 performed on public land or in the waters of the state not owned
47 or managed by the commission must have the consent of the owner.

48 (c) The commission shall ensure that all captures and
49 disposals of animals that belong to these priority invasive
50 species are documented and photographed and that the geographic
51 location of the take is recorded for research purposes. The
52 commission shall direct the disposal of all animals captured and
53 not destroyed in removal efforts.

54 (d) The commission shall submit a report of findings and
55 recommendations regarding its implementation of the pilot
56 program to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the
57 Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2021.

58 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.