



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1398

PRINTERS NO. 2997

PRIME SPONSOR: Staback

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2011/12	FY 2012/13
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Game Fund	\$0	\$0

**SUMMARY:** The bill amends Title 34 of the Game and Wildlife Code to end the issuance of general exotic wildlife possession permits as of January 1, 2013, effectively banning future possession of certain exotic wildlife by the general public; and redefines “Exotic Wildlife” and “Exotic Wildlife Dealer”.

**ANALYSIS:** The bill amends Title 34 (Game and Wildlife Code) Section 2961 (relating to definitions) by redefining “Exotic Wildlife” to include all non-indigenous animals and the following: nonhuman primates, bears, coyotes, wolves, bobcats, lions, tigers, leopards, jaguars, cheetahs, cougars and any crossbreed of the animals specified having similar characteristics in appearance or features.

The bill also amends Section 2961 to define “Exotic Wildlife Dealer” as any person who imports into the Commonwealth, possesses, buys, sells, locates or finds for a fee, barter, donates, gives away or otherwise disposes of exotic wildlife, and engages in at least five documented transactions annually involving exotic wildlife.

Additionally, the bill amends Section 2963 (relating to exotic wildlife possession permits) by changing the Game Commission’s current exotic wildlife permitting process. Starting January 1, 2013, the Game Commission will no longer issue permits for the private ownership of exotic wildlife, except for those related to propagating permits, exotic wildlife dealer permits, menagerie permits and general permits provided for under 58 PA Code Section 147.302. These exceptions allow zoos, wildlife parks, designated wildlife sanctuaries, etc. to continue being permitted to possess exotic wildlife. There are currently 36 private individuals who have permits to own exotic wildlife. These 36 individuals can continue to possess their animals, but no new permits will be issued. When their animals die, they cannot be replaced.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The enactment of this bill will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds.

**PREPARED BY:** Thomas Gwinn  
House Appropriations Committee (R)

**DATE:** January 23, 2012

*Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*