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# House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** All House Members  
**From:** Representative Gary Haluska  
**Date:** February 7, 2012  
**Subject:** Co-Sponsorship Memo—Possession Permits for Non-Indigenous and Exotic Reptiles and Amphibians

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In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation that would amend Title 30 (Fish) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to provide for possession permits for non-indigenous and exotic reptiles and amphibians.

Under this legislation, the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission would require the issuance of annual possession permits to anyone who possesses a non-indigenous or exotic reptile or amphibian. The application fee, which would be \$25 for individuals and \$200 for dealers, would authorize permit holders to purchase, receive, or possess non-indigenous or exotic reptiles or amphibians from any lawful source. A permit would not be granted until the commission is satisfied that proper housing and care required for the possession of such species is adequate and in accordance with the standards established by the commission.

This legislation is important because we have seen an increase in the number of individuals who purchase or trade non-indigenous or exotic reptiles or amphibians, which poses potential risks to the public, native wildlife, and the environment. Although some exotic reptile and amphibian owners exercise caution and discretion while possessing or handling reptiles and amphibians, many do not. Substandard enclosures and mishandling put the health and safety of the owner and nearby residents at risk.

If you would like to co-sponsor this measure, please contact Marilyn via [mjuran@pahouse.net](mailto:mjuran@pahouse.net).

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