

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTIONNo. 797 Session of  
2004

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INTRODUCED BY HERSHEY, REICHLEY, PHILLIPS, B. SMITH, BUNT,  
ARMSTRONG, CIVERA, CLYMER, CURRY, GODSHALL, HENNESSEY, JAMES,  
R. MILLER, S. MILLER, PICKETT, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER,  
SURRA, YOUNGBLOOD, ZUG, BOYD, DALEY, DENLINGER AND CRAHALLA,  
JUNE 21, 2004

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AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JUNE 29, 2004

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to study the  
2 feasibility and suitability of transferring the regulatory  
3 authority of exotic wildlife maintained in captivity from the  
4 Pennsylvania Game Commission to the Department of  
5 Agriculture.

6 WHEREAS, The definition of "exotic wildlife" in Title 34 of  
7 the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is confusing and subject  
8 to misinterpretation; and

9 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Game Commission is currently the  
10 regulatory agency for exotic wildlife; and

11 WHEREAS, The Department of Agriculture has the authority to  
12 regulate the health of all animals maintained in captivity; and

13 WHEREAS, The citizens of this Commonwealth would greatly  
14 benefit from clearly defined areas of regulatory authority for  
15 exotic wildlife maintained in captivity; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint  
17 State Government Commission to study the efficacy of the

1 existing statute and regulations as well as the feasibility and  
2 suitability of transferring the regulatory authority of exotic  
3 wildlife maintained in captivity from the Pennsylvania Game  
4 Commission to the Department of Agriculture; and be it further

5       RESOLVED, That this study address the following:

6           (1) Protection of the public from dangerous animals and  
7 disease transmission from exotic wildlife to humans.

8           (2) Protection of the domestic animal population from  
9 unwanted predators, unwanted genetic interaction and disease  
10 transmission from exotic wildlife.

11           (3) Protection of the indigenous wildlife population  
12 from unwanted predators, unwanted genetic interaction and  
13 disease transmission from exotic wildlife.

14           (4) The care and keeping of exotic wildlife maintained  
15 in captivity.

16           (5) Categories of exotic wildlife which should be  
17 regulated and by which agency. Should any species be  
18 prohibited from being maintained in captivity?

19           (6) Recommendations for clarifying the relevant  
20 definitions related to regulating exotic wildlife maintained  
21 in captivity.

22           (7) Recommendations for local government involvement in  
23 the regulation of exotic wildlife maintained in captivity.

24           (8) Ways the budgets of the Pennsylvania Game  
25 Commission, the Department of Agriculture and the General  
26 Fund would be affected by any change in the regulatory  
27 authority for exotic wildlife maintained in captivity. What  
28 new costs would be associated with a transfer of authority to  
29 the Department of Agriculture?

30           (9) How would the existing work force be utilized if any

1 change in regulatory authority is recommended? What new  
2 personnel would be necessary, what training would be  
3 available and at what cost?

4 and be it further

5 RESOLVED, THAT THE SCOPE OF THIS STUDY BE LIMITED TO EXOTIC  
6 WILDLIFE AND SHALL NOT INCLUDE "GAME ANIMALS" AS DEFINED IN  
7 TITLE 34 OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CONSOLIDATED STATUTES; AND BE IT  
8 FURTHER

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9 RESOLVED, That the report of the Joint State Government  
10 Commission be submitted to the House of Representatives by  
11 December 31, 2004.