

The Attorney General of California has prepared the following title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed measure:

FERRETS. LEGALIZATION AS PETS. INITIATIVE STATUTE. Legalizes the possession, importation, and transportation of pet ferrets. Requires all pet ferrets over six months old to be vaccinated against rabies annually, and all ferrets sold as pets in retail stores to be spayed or neutered before sale. Authorizes counties to impose license fee up to \$100 on purchasers of ferrets as pets, to pay costs of local animal control enforcement. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: **Likely additional local government costs of a few million dollars annually for animal control enforcement activities, which could be largely or entirely offset by the license fees authorized by the measure. (15-0034.)**

15 - 0034

Pat Wright
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Initiative Coordinator
Office of the Attorney General
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Sacramento, CA 95814

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JUN 09 2015

INITIATIVE COORDINATOR
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S

June 3, 2015

Please consider this my written request that a circulating title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed measure be prepared for the California Legalization Initiative for Ferrets (CLIFF).

Enclosed please find the measure we wish to submit to the voters.

A check for \$200 is enclosed made out to the State of California.

Please let me know if there are any problems. Paperwork is not my forte. After this, I hand it off to a more detailed person.

Sincerely,



Pat Wright

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INITIATIVE MEASURE TO BE SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO THE VOTERS

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The Attorney General of California has prepared the following circulating title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed measure:

(Here set forth the title and summary prepared by the Attorney General. This title and summary must also be printed across the top of each page of the petition whereon signatures are to appear.)

TO THE HONORABLE SECRETARY OF STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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We, the undersigned, registered, qualified voters of California, residents of _____ County (or City and County), hereby propose amendments to the Fish and Game Code, the Food and Agricultural Code, and the Health and Safety Code, relating to pet ferrets, and petition the Secretary of State to submit the same to the voters of California for their adoption or rejection at the next primary or general statewide election or at any special statewide election held prior to that primary or general statewide election or otherwise provided by law. The proposed statutory amendments read as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 2118 of the Fish and Game Code is amended to read:

2118. It is unlawful to import, transport, possess, or release alive into this state, except under a revocable, nontransferable permit as provided in this chapter and the regulations pertaining thereto, any wild animal of the following species:

- (a) Class Aves: (birds)
 - Family Cuculidae (cuckoos)
 - All Species.
 - Family Alaudidae (larks)
 - Skylark, *Alauda arvensis*
 - Family Corvidae (crows, jays, magpies)
 - All species.
 - Family Turdidae (thrushes)
 - European blackbird, *Turdus merula*
 - Missel (or mistle), thrush, *Turdus viscivorus*
 - Family Sturnidae (starlings and mynas or mynahs)
 - All species of the family, except hill myna (or hill mynah),
 - Gracula religiosa* (sometimes referred to as *Eulabes religiosa*)
 - Family Ploccidae (weavers)
 - The following species:
 - Spanish sparrow, *Passer hispaniolensis*
 - Italian sparrow, *Passer italiae*
 - European tree sparrow, *Passer montanus*
 - Cape sparrow, *Passer capensis*
 - Madagascar weaver, *Foudia madagascariensis*
 - Baya weaver, *Ploceus baya*
 - Hawaiian rice bird, *Munia nisoria*
 - Red-billed quelea, *Quelea quelea*
 - Red-headed quelea, *Quelea erythrops*
 - Family Fringillidae (sparrows, finches, buntings)
 - Yellowhammer, *Emberiza citrinella*
- (b) Class Mammalia (mammals)
 - Order Primates Primata
 - All species except those in family Hominidae
 - Order Edentata (sloths, anteaters, armadillos, etc.)
 - All species.
 - Order Marsupialia (marsupials or pouched mammals)
 - All species.
 - Order Insectivora (shrews, moles, hedgehogs, etc.)
 - All species.
 - Order Dermoptera (gliding lemurs)

- All species.
- Order Chiroptera (bats)
All species.
- Order Monotremata (spiny anteaters, platypuses)
All species.
- Order Pholidota (pangolins, scaly anteaters)
All species.
- Order Lagomorpha (pikas, rabbits, hares)
All species, except domesticated ~~rac~~varieties of rabbits.
- Order Rodentia (rodents)
All species, except domesticated golden hamsters, also known as Syrian hamster, *Mesocricetus auratus*; domesticated ~~rac~~varieties of rats or mice (white or albino; trained, dancing or spinning, laboratory-reared); and domestic strains of guinea pig (*Cavia porcellus*).
- Order Carnivora (carnivores)
All species, except domestic dogs (*Canis familiaris*) and ~~familiaris~~, domestic cats (*Felis catus*), and domestic ferrets (*Mustela furo*) pursuant to Section 121790 of the Health and Safety Code.
- Order Tubulidentata (aardvarks)
All species.
- Order Proboscidea (elephants)
All species.
- Order Hyracoidea (hyraxes)
All species.
- Order Sirenia (dugongs, manatees)
All species.
- Order Perissodactyla (horses, zebras, tapirs, rhinoceroses, etc.)
All species except those of the family Equidae.
- Order Artiodactyla (swine, peccarica, camels, deer, elk, except elk (genus *Cervus*) which are subject to Section 2118.2, moose, antelopes, cattle, goats, sheep, etc.)
All species except: domestic swine of the family Suidae; American bison, and domestic cattle, sheep and goats of the family Bovidae; ~~rac~~varieties of big-horned sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) now or formerly indigenous to this state.
- Mammals of the orders ~~Primates~~ Primate, Edentata, Dermoptera, Monotremata, Pholidota, Tubulidentata, Proboscidea, Perissodactyla, Hyracoidea, Sirenia and

Carnivora, that are restricted for the welfare of the animals, except animals of the families Viverridae and Mustelidae in the order Carnivora that are restricted because such those animals, not including domestic ferrets to be owned as pets, are undesirable and a menace to native wildlife, the agricultural interests of the state, or to the public health or safety.

- (c) Class amphibia (frogs, toads, salamanders)
 - Family Bufonidae (toads)
 - Giant toad or marine toad, Bufo marinus
- (d) Class Monorhina (lampreys)
 - All species.
- (e) Class Osteichthyes (bony fishes)
 - Family Serranidae (bass)
 - White perch, Morone or Roccus americana
 - Family Clupeidae (herring)
 - Gizzard shad, Dorosoma cepedianum
 - Family Sciaenidae (croakers)
 - Freshwater sheepshead, Aplodinotus grunniens
 - Family Characidae (characins)
 - Banded tetra, Astyanax fasciatus
 - All species of piranhas
 - Family Lepisosteidae (gars)
 - All species.
 - Family Amiidae (bowfins)
 - All species.
- (f) Class Reptilia (snakes, lizards, turtles, alligators)
 - Family Crocodylidae
 - All species.
- (g) Class Crustacea (crustaceans)
 - Genus Cambarus (crayfishes)
 - All species.
 - Genus Astacus (crayfishes)
 - All species.
 - Genus Astacopsis (crayfishes)
 - All species.
- (h) Class Gastropoda (slugs, snails, clams)
 - All species of slugs.
 - All species of land snails.

(i) Other classes, orders, families, genera, and species of wild animals which may be designated by the commission in cooperation with the Department of Food and Agriculture, (1) when the class, order, family, genus, or species is proven to be undesirable and a menace to native wildlife or the agricultural interests of the state, or (2) to provide for the welfare of wild animals.

(j) Except as expressly authorized in this code, any live nonindigenous Atlantic salmon or the roe thereof into the Smith River watershed.

(k) Classes, families, genera, and species in addition to those listed in this section may be added to or deleted from the above lists from time to time by commission regulations in cooperation with the Department of Food and Agriculture.

SEC. 2. Division 14.7 (commencing with Section 31900) is added to the Food and Agricultural Code, to read:

DIVISION 14.7. REGULATION OF FERRETS

31900. (a) A county board of supervisors may impose a license fee on a purchaser to be paid at the time of sale of a domestic ferret to be owned as a pet. The amount shall be remitted by the seller to the treasurer of the county of residence of the purchaser. The fee shall be set at an amount sufficient to cover the reasonable regulatory costs of enforcement relating to domestic ferrets, not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100). Fee revenues shall be available for allocation only to local public animal control agencies within the county to cover the costs of enforcement relating to domestic ferrets, including, but not limited to, subdivision (b) of Section 121790 of the Health and Safety Code.

(b) A county shall not impose any license fee other than that authorized by subdivision (a) for domestic ferrets owned as pets. A city shall not impose any license fee for domestic ferrets owned as pets.

SEC. 3. Section 121790 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

121790. (a) The department shall publish from time to time a list of animals that may not be imported into this state, and a list of animals that may not be possessed in this state, except by permit from the department. Unless a permit is issued pursuant to this chapter, it is unlawful to import into, or possess in, this state any wild animal for which a permit is required by the department.

(b) A permit shall not be required to import into, or possess in, this state domestic ferrets to be owned as pets under the following conditions:

(1) All ferrets over the age of six months shall be vaccinated against rabies annually.

(2) Any ferret that is sold or offered for sale in a retail store shall be spayed or neutered before the sale.

(c) Local public animal control agencies may enforce the provisions of subdivision (b).

LAO

July 29, 2015

Hon. Kamala D. Harris
Attorney General
1300 I Street, 17th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Attention: Ms. Ashley Johansson
Initiative Coordinator

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JUL 29 2015

INITIATIVE COORDINATOR
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Dear Attorney General Harris:

Pursuant to Elections Code Section 9005, we have reviewed the proposed initiative (A.G. File No. 15-0034) related to the ownership of domestic ferrets.

BACKGROUND

California law makes it illegal to own ferrets as pets without a state permit. Some reports estimate that there are probably hundreds of thousands of domestic ferrets currently owned as pets in California despite this ban.

PROPOSAL

This measure makes it legal for Californians to own ferrets as pets. The measure also requires that domestic ferrets over the age of six months be vaccinated annually for rabies and that any pet ferret sold in a retail store be spayed or neutered before sale. The measure authorizes counties to assess a license fee of up to \$100 upon sale of pet ferrets. Under the measure, revenue from the fee would be used to support local animal control enforcement activities related to domestic ferrets.

FISCAL EFFECTS

Local animal control agencies would experience additional costs associated with enforcing laws related to ownership of pet ferrets, such as requirements for vaccinating, spaying, and neutering ferrets. These costs could total a few million dollars annually statewide. Most or all of these costs likely would be funded by the license fee authorized by this measure.

Legislative Analyst's Office
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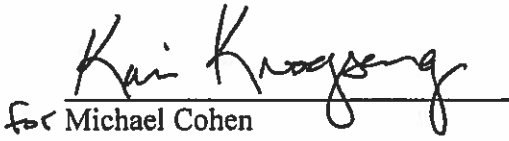
Summary of Fiscal Effects. This measure would have the following major fiscal effect:

- Likely additional local government costs of a few million dollars annually for animal control enforcement activities, which could be largely or entirely offset by the license fees authorized by the measure.

Sincerely,



for Mac Taylor
Legislative Analyst



for Michael Cohen
Director of Finance