

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5153

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Natural Resources, February 17, 1995

**Title:** An act relating to life-threatening animals.

**Brief Description:** Permitting control of life-threatening animals.

**Sponsors:** Senators Hargrove, Owen, Snyder and Hochstatter.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Natural Resources: 1/31/95, 2/17/95 [DPS].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5153 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Drew, Chair; Spanel, Vice Chair; A. Anderson, Hargrove, Haugen, Morton, Oke, Owen, Snyder, Strannigan and Swecker.

**Staff:** Vic Moon (786-7469)

**Background:** There is currently no statutory authority which allows a person to kill an animal which poses an imminent threat to human life.

**Summary of Substitute Bill:** A person may use the defense of necessity if charged with illegally killing a wild animal. The legal elements of a defense of necessity are delineated.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** The intent remains the same but the general authorization to kill is replaced with a defense mechanism if a person is charged with illegal killing of wildlife.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** The public should be able to protect itself.

**Testimony Against:** The proposal would hurt wildlife.

**Testified:** PRO: Gary Rowland, Modern Firearms; Kent Lebsack, Cattlemen's Assn.;  
CON: Ron Schultz, Audubon Society; Mitch Friedman.