

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6118

58th Legislature
2004 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate March 8, 2004
YEAS 34 NAYS 14

President of the Senate

Passed by the House March 4, 2004
YEAS 90 NAYS 5

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Approved

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Milton H. Doumit, Jr.,
Secretary of the Senate of the
State of Washington, do hereby
certify that the attached is
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6118 as
passed by the Senate and the House
of Representatives on the dates
hereon set forth.

Secretary

FILED

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6118

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2004 Regular Session

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2004 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Parks, Fish & Wildlife (originally sponsored by Senators Morton, Stevens, Deccio, Mulliken, Roach and Swecker)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/04.

1 AN ACT Relating to a pilot program for cougar control; and creating
2 new sections.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The department of fish and wildlife, in
5 cooperation and collaboration with the county legislative authorities
6 of Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Chelan, and Okanogan counties, shall
7 recommend rules to establish a three-year pilot program within select
8 game management units of these counties, to pursue or kill cougars with
9 the aid of dogs. A pursuit season and a kill season with the aid of
10 dogs must be established through the fish and wildlife commission's
11 rule-making process, utilizing local dangerous wildlife task teams
12 comprised of the two collaborating authorities. The two collaborating
13 authorities shall also develop a more effective and accurate dangerous
14 wildlife reporting system to ensure a timely response. The pilot
15 program's primary goals are to provide for public safety, to protect
16 property, and to assess cougar populations.

17 (2) Any rules adopted by the fish and wildlife commission to
18 establish a pilot project allowing for the pursuit or hunting of

1 cougars with the aid of dogs under this section only must ensure that
2 all pursuits or hunts are:

- 3 (a) Designed to protect public safety or property;
- 4 (b) Reflective of the most current cougar population data;
- 5 (c) Designed to generate data that is necessary for the department
6 to satisfy the reporting requirements of section 3 of this act; and
- 7 (d) Consistent with any applicable recommendations emerging from
8 research on cougar population dynamics in a multiprey environment
9 conducted by Washington State University's department of natural
10 resource sciences that was funded in whole or in part by the department
11 of fish and wildlife.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A county legislative authority may request
13 inclusion in the pilot project authorized by this act after taking the
14 following actions:

- 15 (1) Adopting a resolution that requests inclusion in the pilot
16 project;
- 17 (2) Documenting the need to participate in the pilot program by
18 identifying the number of cougar/human encounters and livestock and pet
19 depredations; and
- 20 (3) Demonstrating that existing cougar depredation permits, public
21 safety cougar hunts, or other existing wildlife management tools have
22 not been sufficient to deal with cougar incidents in the county.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** After the culmination of the pilot project
24 authorized by this section, the department of fish and wildlife must
25 report to the fish and wildlife commission and the appropriate
26 committees of the legislature:

- 27 (1) Recommendations for the development of a more effective and
28 accurate dangerous wildlife reporting system, a summary of how the
29 pilot project aided the collection of data useful in making future
30 wildlife management decisions, and a recommendation as to whether the
31 pilot project would serve as a model for effective cougar management
32 into the future. The report required by this subsection must be
33 completed in collaboration with the counties choosing to participate in
34 the pilot program.
- 35 (2) Recommendations for a new and modern cougar management system
36 that focuses on altering the behavior of wild cougars, and not solely

1 on controlling cougar population levels. These recommendations must
2 include at a minimum suggestions for wildlife management techniques
3 aimed at modifying cougar behavior, the identification of nonlethal
4 ways to minimize interactions between cougars and humans, and an
5 analysis of opportunities for minimizing interactions between cougars
6 and humans by controlling the abundance and location of cougar prey
7 species.

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