

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to nonnative animals; creating s.
3 379.2311, F.S.; defining the terms "pet dealer" and
4 "priority invasive species"; requiring the Fish and
5 Wildlife Conservation Commission to establish a pilot
6 program for the eradication of priority invasive
7 species; providing legislative findings; providing
8 goals for the pilot program; authorizing the
9 commission to enter into specified contracts;
10 specifying parameters for the implementation of the
11 pilot program; specifying procedures for capture and
12 disposal of the animals; requiring the commission to
13 submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature by
14 a specified date; requiring certain nonnative species
15 to be implanted with a passive integrated transponder
16 before sale, resale, or being offered for sale by a
17 pet dealer; requiring the commission to adopt rules;
18 providing an effective date.

19
20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

21
22 Section 1. Section 379.2311, Florida Statutes, is created
23 to read:

24 379.2311 Nonnative animal management.—

25 (1) As used in this section, the term:

26 (a) "Pet dealer" means any person who, in the ordinary
27 course of business, engages in the sale of more than 20 animals
28 per year to the public. This term includes breeders who sell
29 animals directly to consumers.

30 (b) "Priority invasive species" means the following
31 species:

32 1. Lizards known as tegu lizards, consisting of the genera
33 Tupinambis and Salvator, and any taxonomic synonymies of such
34 genera.

35 2. Species listed in s. 379.372(2) (a).

36 3. Pterois volitans, also known as the red lionfish.

37 4. Pterois miles, also known as the common lionfish or
38 devil firefish.

39 (2) The commission shall establish a pilot program to
40 mitigate the impact of priority invasive species on the public
41 lands or waters of this state.

42 (a) The Legislature finds that priority invasive species
43 continue to expand their range and to decimate the fauna and
44 flora of the Everglades and other natural areas and ecosystems
45 in the southern and central parts of the state at an
46 accelerating rate.

47 (b) The goal of the pilot program is to examine the
48 benefits of using strategically deployed, trained private
49 contractors to slow the advance of these nonnative animals,
50 contain their populations, and eradicate them from this state.

51 (c) To implement the pilot program, the commission may
52 enter into contracts in accordance with chapter 287 with
53 entities or individuals to capture or destroy these nonnative
54 animals found on public lands or in the waters of the state. Any
55 private contracted work to be performed on public land or in the
56 waters of the state not owned or managed by the commission must
57 have the consent of the owner.

58 (d) The commission shall ensure that all captures and
59 disposals of these nonnative animals are documented and that the
60 geographic location of the take is recorded for research
61 purposes. The commission shall direct the disposal of all
62 animals captured and not destroyed in removal efforts.

63 (e) The commission shall submit a report of findings and
64 recommendations regarding its implementation of the pilot
65 program to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the
66 Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2020.

67 (3) Before selling, reselling, or offering for sale any
68 nonnative animal specified by the commission pursuant to
69 paragraph (a), pet dealers must implant in the animal or have
70 the animal implanted with a passive integrated transponder (PIT)
71 tag as specified by the commission. The commission shall adopt
72 rules implementing this subsection, including:

73 (a) Identifying nonnative animals that threaten the
74 state's wildlife habitats and therefore must be implanted with a
75 PIT tag; and

CS/HB 587

2017

76 (b) Establishing a standard for the types of PIT tags
77 which must be used by pet dealers and the manner in which they
78 must be implanted.

79 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.