
DIGEST

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HB 854 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Geymann

Abstract: Provides for exemption to Wildlife Rehabilitation Program rules.

Proposed law adds an exemption to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Program rules regarding possession of wildlife. Proposed law provides that, notwithstanding any law or rules to the contrary, individuals may possess in captivity any sick, injured or orphaned wildlife if they have satisfied the course requirements of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Program, as provided by administrative rule, and a licensed veterinarian has determined that the animal is medically non-releasable or exhibits signs of adjusted life in captivity and poses minimum zoonotic potential. Proposed law specifies that wildlife included under this exemption shall be limited to the following species: (1) squirrel, (2) skunk, (3) opossum, (4) raccoon, (5) rabbit, or (6) chipmunk, with such possession limited to one animal per individual. Proposed law provides for strict liability for individuals in possession of one of these animals if they cause any damages to persons or property.

(Adds R.S. 56:125.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment to the original bill:

1. Specify that proposed law supercedes any existing local ordinance, administrative rule, or any other provision of law to the contrary.
2. Make a technical change.