



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

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Brad Little / Governor
Ed Schriever / Director

H 527 –

Thank you Mr. Chairman, my name is Paul Kline, Deputy Director for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

House Bill 527 amends Section 36-701, Idaho Code, to require no permit or license for certain cold-blooded animals to be used in the pet trade or kept as pets.

At the request of the sponsor, Department staff provided a technical review of the bill and suggested language edits to correct a potential conflict in statute related to import, possession or sale of cold-blooded animals classified as invasive species by the Idaho Department of Agriculture (Sections 22-1905 and 22-1905, Idaho Code).

The Fish and Game Commission reviewed H 527 and has taken the position to not support the bill.

Their reasons for this position are supported in the following current sections of Idaho Code and IDAPA:

- In Section 36-701(d), Idaho Code that requires a permit be issued by the Fish and Game Director to import wildlife.
- In IDAPA 13.01.10.100.02 that states the Department will not issue any permit for import, export, transport, release, possession of live wildlife or eggs thereof, if the wildlife or eggs thereof would pose a threat to the state of Idaho, including threat of disease, genetic contamination or displacement of or competition with existing species.
- In IDAPA 13.01.10.101.02 that states that an import permit applicant must provide a valid Certificate of Veterinary Inspection from the state of origin for each animal imported and
- In IDAPA 13.01.10.101.03 that states the Department may impose test and certification requirements related to genetic issues or diseases of concern for any animal to be imported or transported.

In summary, the Fish and Game Commission was concerned that imported cold-blooded animals, including venomous snakes could, if inadvertently or directly released to the habitat, pose an unnecessary risk to Idaho's wildlife resources.

Mr. Chairman and Committee, the Fish and Game Commission does not support House Bill 527 and respectfully asks that you hold this bill in Committee.

Thank you and I can stand for questions.

Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage