

1 State of Arkansas  
2 81st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 1997

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 739

4  
5 By: Senator Smith  
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7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 "AN ACT TO LIMIT OWNERSHIP OF DANGEROUS EXOTIC ANIMALS;  
10 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."  
11

## Subtitle

12  
13 "TO LIMIT OWNERSHIP OF EXOTIC ANIMALS."  
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15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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17 SECTION 1. As used in this act:

18 (1) "Dangerous exotic animal" means a lion, tiger, leopard, ocelot,  
19 jaguar, cheetah, margay, jaguarundi, or any poisonous or life-threatening  
20 reptile not indigenous to the State of Arkansas;

21 (2) "Owner" means any person who:

22 (A) has a right of property in a dangerous exotic animal;

23 (B) keeps or harbors a dangerous exotic animal;

24 (C) has a dangerous exotic animal in his care; or

25 (D) acts as custodian of a dangerous exotic animal.  
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27 SECTION 2. No person shall have a right of property in, keep, harbor,  
28 care for, act as custodian of or maintain in his possession, any dangerous  
29 exotic animal except at a properly maintained zoological park, federally  
30 licensed exhibit, circus, scientific or educational institution, research  
31 laboratory, veterinary hospital, or animal refuge in an escape-proof enclosure  
32 as approved by the Game and Fish Commission.  
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34 SECTION 3. It is no defense to a violation of Section 1 that the person  
35 violating the section has attempted to domesticate the dangerous exotic  
36 animal. If there appears to be imminent danger to the public any dangerous

1 exotic animal found not in compliance with the provision of this act shall be  
2 subject to seizure by the Game and Fish Commission and may immediately be  
3 placed in a facility approved by the Game and Fish Commission.

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5 SECTION 4. (a) Any person violating this act shall be guilty of a Class  
6 A misdemeanor, and each day of violation constitutes a separate offense.

7 (b) Upon being found guilty of or pleading guilty or nolo contendere to  
8 a violation of this act, the animal with regard to which the finding or plea  
9 was obtained shall be confiscated and placed in a facility approved by the  
10 Game and Fish Commission, with the owner to be responsible for all costs  
11 associated with such placement.

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13 SECTION 5. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature  
14 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code  
15 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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17 SECTION 6. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to  
18 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect  
19 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without  
20 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
21 act are declared to be severable.

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23 SECTION 7. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are  
24 hereby repealed.

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