



# Georgia General Assembly

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03 HB 227/CSFA

House Bill 227 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE) (AM)

By: Representatives Heard of the 75<sup>th</sup>, McBee of the 74<sup>th</sup> and Rogers of the 15<sup>th</sup>

## A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

To amend Code Section 27\_5\_5 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to wild animals for which a license or permit is required, so as to provide for an exception for Bengal cats; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

### SECTION 1.

Code Section 27\_5\_5 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to wild animals for which a license or permit is required, is amended by striking subparagraph (b)(1)(K) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"(K) Order Carnivora (weasels, ferrets, cats, bears, wolves, etc.) — All species, except that a European ferret (*Mustela putorius furo*) or a domestic Bengal cat may be sold, purchased, exhibited, or held as a pet without a license or permit; provided, however, that the ferret owner can provide valid documentation that the ferret was sexually neutered prior to seven months of age and is vaccinated against rabies with a properly administered vaccine approved for use on ferrets by the United States Department of Agriculture; and provided further that as used in this subparagraph, the term 'domestic Bengal cat' shall include only the hybrid offspring of Asian leopard cats (*felis bengalensis*) which have been recognized by registration in a national cat fancy organization as the domestic breed of Bengal cat, provided such registration shall not include any animal less than four generations removed from an Asian leopard cat;"

### SECTION 2.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.