

# Legislative Analysis

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## ALLOW BREEDING OF LARGE CARNIVORES

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### House Bill 5163

Sponsor: Rep. Rob VerHeulen

Committee: Regulatory Reform

Complete to 2-3-14

## A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5163 AS INTRODUCED 12-4-13

The bill would amend the Large Carnivore Act (at MCL 287.1103) to allow for the breeding of large carnivores under certain conditions. Currently, the breeding of large carnivores is prohibited.

[Under the act, large carnivore refers to lions, leopards, tigers, cougars, panthers, cheetahs, including a hybrid cross with any of the aforementioned cats, and bears.]

Specifically, the bill would allow (1) accredited zoological parks, (2) individuals holding class C licenses under federal law [9 CFR Part 2], and (3) individuals holding a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service captive-bred wildlife registration under 50 CFR 17, provided they also meet both of the following conditions:

- The individual is breeding the large carnivore for conservation purposes as part of an approved science-based breeding program.
- The individual is not breeding the large carnivore for the purpose of selling, bartering, leasing, or trading the animal or its offspring or animal parts for commercial profit.

"Science-based breeding program" would mean a cooperative, organized breeding program approved by the state that includes all of the following:

- A demonstration of financial sustainability.
- Physical facilities to house animals, including progeny.
- A long-term genetic management plan.
- A system of record-keeping.
- A relationship between the program and conservation of the species in the wild.
- Plans for placement of all animals as part of ongoing program implementation or voluntary or involuntary closure of the facility.

## FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have no significant fiscal impact for the state or local units of government.

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