

House Bill 227

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

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 27-5-5 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to wild  
2 animals for which a license or permit is required, so as to provide for an exception for Bengal  
3 cats; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

5 **SECTION 1.**

6 Code Section 27-5-5 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to wild animals for  
7 which a license or permit is required, is amended by striking subparagraph (b)(1)(K) and  
8 inserting in lieu thereof the following:

9 "(K) Order Carnivora (weasels, ferrets, cats, bears, wolves, etc.) — All species, except  
10 that a European ferret (*Mustela putorius furo*) or a Bengal cat may be sold, purchased,  
11 exhibited, or held as a pet without a license or permit; provided, however, that the ferret  
12 or Bengal cat owner can provide valid documentation that the ferret or Bengal cat was  
13 sexually neutered prior to seven months of age and is vaccinated against rabies with a  
14 properly administered vaccine approved for use on ferrets and Bengal cats by the  
15 United States Department of Agriculture;"

16 **SECTION 2.**

17 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.