

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

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 style="text-align:center">**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 domestic Bengal cat may be sold,  
11 purchased, exhibited, or held as a pet without a license or permit; provided, however,  
12 that the ferret owner can provide valid documentation that the ferret was sexually  
13 neutered prior to seven months of age and is vaccinated against rabies with a properly  
14 administered vaccine approved for use on ferrets by the United States Department of  
15 Agriculture; and provided further that as used in this subparagraph, the term 'domestic  
16 Bengal cat' shall include only the hybrid offspring of Asian leopard cats (*felis*  
17 *bengalensis*) which have been recognized by registration in a national cat fancy  
18 organization as the domestic breed of Bengal cat, provided such registration shall not  
19 include any animal less than four generations removed from an Asian leopard cat;".

20 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

21 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.