

House Bill 462

By: Representative Martin of the 49th

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 that certain hybrid
3 offspring of Asian leopard cats and domestic cats which are at least four generations from
4 the Asian leopard cat shall not be a wild animal for which a permit is required; to provide an
5 effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 27-5-5 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to wild animals for
9 which a license or permit is required, is amended by revising subparagraph (b)(1)(K) to read
10 as follows:

11 "(K) Order Carnivora (weasels, ferrets, cats, bears, wolves, etc.) — All species, ~~except;~~
12 provided, however, that:

13 (i) A a European ferret (Mustela putorius furo) may be sold, purchased, exhibited, or
14 held as a pet without a license or permit; provided, however further, that the ferret
15 owner ~~can~~ shall provide valid documentation that the ferret was sexually neutered
16 prior to seven months of age and is vaccinated against rabies with a properly
17 administered vaccine approved for use on ferrets by the United States Department of
18 Agriculture; and

19 (ii) A domestic Bengal cat may be sold, purchased, exhibited, bred, or held as a pet
20 without a license or permit. As used in this division, the term 'domestic Bengal cat'
21 means the hybrid offspring of an Asian leopard cat (Felis bengalensis) and a domestic
22 cat which is at least four generations removed from the Asian leopard cat and which
23 has been recognized by registration in a national cat fancy organization as the
24 domestic breed of Bengal cat;"

25 **SECTION 2.**

26 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
27 without such approval.

28 **SECTION 3.**

29 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.