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House Bill 5092 (as passed by the House)
Sponsor: Representative Matthew Bierlein
House Committee: Regulatory Reform
Senate Committee: Regulatory Affairs

Date Completed: 11-5-25

CONTENT

The bill would modify large carnivore breeding license requirements set forth in the Large Carnivore Act.

Among other things, the Act allows a person to apply to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) for a breeding license to breed large carnivores. "Large carnivore" means any of the following, regardless of whether the animal is wild or captive bred:

- A lion, leopard, jaguar, tiger, cougar, panther, or cheetah.
- A hybrid cross with any of the animals listed above.
- A bear of a species that is native or nonnative to the State.

Among other requirements, an applicant for a large carnivore breeding license must hold and meet or exceed the standards required of a Federal class C license. Generally, businesses that buy or sell warm-blooded animals, exhibit them to the public, transport them commercially, or use them in experiments or teaching must be licensed or registered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Federal law provides for three types of animal licenses: class A (for animal breeders); class B (for animal dealers); and class C (for animal exhibitors).

Under the Act, if the USDA has, within the last five years, confiscated an animal of, or issued a direct or critical noncompliance or a civil penalty to, including a cease-and-desist order, a monetary penalty, or a license suspension or revocation against, a class C licensee, that class C licensee does not meet the Act's requirements. The bill would delete this provision. Instead, it would specify that an applicant would have to maintain the applicant's class C license in good standing for the previous five years to apply for a large carnivore breeding license. "Good standing" would mean a person has not had a Federal or State license suspended or revoked or has not been made subject to a cease-and-desist order.

MCL 287.1122a

Legislative Analyst: Nathan Leaman

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on MDARD.

Fiscal Analyst: Bruce R. Baker

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