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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

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<b>2013 Assembly Bill 703</b>	<b>Assembly Amendments 1 and 2</b>
<i>Memo published: February 19, 2014</i>	<i>Contact: Laura Rose, Deputy Director (266-9791)</i>

### 2013 Assembly Bill 703

Assembly Bill 703 provides that:

- No person may possess, import into the state, sell, transfer, or breed a dangerous exotic animal.
- No person may allow a member of the public to come into direct contact with a dangerous exotic animal.

A dangerous exotic animal is defined as one of the following:

- Felines: lion, tiger, jaguar, leopard, snow leopard, clouded leopard, Sunda clouded leopard, or cheetah, or a hybrid of any of these.
- Bears: Asiatic black bear, brown bear, polar bear, sloth bear, sun bear, giant panda, or spectacled bear, or a hybrid of any of these.
- Siamangs or Gibbons.
- Alligators, crocodiles, caiman, or gharial (Indian crocodile).

The bill allows the following entities and individuals to possess these animals:

- Accredited zoo or aquarium, or under contract under a species survival plan for breeding endangered or threatened species.
- Municipal or county zoo.
- Circus.
- Circus world museum.

- Wildlife sanctuary.
- Federally registered research facility.
- Humane or law enforcement officer; political subdivisions on whose behalf a humane or law enforcement officer takes such an animal into custody.
- A person transporting such an animal through this state, if the animal is in this state for no more than 72 hours.

Finally, the bill grandfathers in current owners of dangerous exotic animals, and allows them to retain possession of their animals.

### **Assembly Amendment 1**

Assembly Amendment 1 provides that certain Department of Natural Resources (DNR) laws relating to interstate transportation of game, possession of game birds and animals, removal of wild animals, and sale of wild animals, do not apply to captive nonnative bears. Rather, the bill's provisions would apply.

### **Assembly Amendment 2**

Assembly Amendment 2 allows a person who does not qualify for one of the bill's exemptions, described above, to possess, import in the state, sell, or transfer dangerous exotic animals if all of the following apply:

- The person possesses the dangerous exotic animals in a county with a population of 50,000 or less.
- The person holds a Class C license as an exhibitor under the federal Animal Welfare Act, 7 USC 2131 to 2159, on the effective date of this subdivision and has not been cited by the federal Department of Agriculture for exhibiting without a license.
- The person does not possess more dangerous exotic animals than the number that the person possessed on the effective date of this subdivision.
- One of the following applies to each dangerous exotic animal possessed by the person (the amendment also applies the following requirement to exotic animals possessed by current exotic animal owners who are grandfathered in under the bill):
  - The dangerous exotic animal is not housed with dangerous exotic animals of the opposite sex.
  - The dangerous exotic animal is beyond reproductive age.
  - A chemical contraceptive is administered to the dangerous exotic animal.
  - The dangerous exotic animal has been surgically altered to prevent reproduction.

- The dangerous exotic animal is unable to reproduce due to a permanent or chronic health condition.
- The person annually obtains, and maintains, a signed statement from a veterinarian showing compliance with the above provisions to prevent reproduction.

**Bill History**

On February 11, 2014, the Assembly Committee on Consumer Protection recommended adoption of Assembly Amendments 1 and 2, on successive votes of Ayes, 7; Noes, 0; and recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 9; Noes, 0 .

LR:ksm