

**Subject** Gross Overlimits

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**Date** February 17, 2020

## Summary

This bill would establish a felony penalty for those who take, possess, or transport wild animals in violation of game and fish laws when the restitution value of the wild animals is \$2,000 or more. An exception would apply to those taking a single threatened or endangered species which typically have higher restitution values.

The bill would also expand the circumstances when gross overlimit penalties apply. Under current law, the penalties apply in cases where wild animals are taken, possessed, or transported when over the legal limit, out of season, or without a license. This bill would expand the provision to apply when the wild animals are taken, possessed, or transported in violation of game and fish laws generally.

The provisions were initially included in a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) proposal in 2016 that increased penalties for more serious poaching and other violations. Other portions of that proposal were adopted.