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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair  
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

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**SB 1397 (Alvarado-Gil) - Mountain Lions: human-mountain lion conflicts program: scientific research**

**Version:** February 20, 2026

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** May 14, 2026

**Policy Vote:** N.R. & W. 7 - 0

**Mandate:** No

**Consultant:** Ashley Ames

**Bill Summary:** This bill would require the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to maintain, enhance, and expand its human-mountain lion conflicts program statewide to protect public health and safety, and require the department to continue and expand its scientific research effort to develop and evaluate methods to deter mountain lions from entering communities and to prevent habituation to humans, as provided, among other provisions.

**\*\*\*\*\* ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE \*\*\*\*\***

**The following information is revised to reflect amendments adopted by the committee on May 14, 2026**

**Fiscal Impact:**

- Unknown but significant ongoing costs, likely in the low millions of dollars annually (General Fund), for CDFW to oversee all provisions of the bill in one of its regions, which would include, but not be limited to, public education and outreach; enforcement activities; data collection and analysis; health and disease surveillance; forensic interpretation of samples; and the evaluation of measurable performance objectives with an emphasis on human-mountain lion conflict, as well as technical assistance, consultation, and support to administer, implement, and enforce the program.

**Committee Amendments:** Committee amendments would make bill provisions contingent upon appropriation and reduce CDFW costs by limiting the human-mountain lion conflict program geographically to one CDFW region that has been most impacted by human-mountain lion conflict, as determined by the department. These amendments would require CDFW to identify which one of its regions has been most impacted by human-mountain lion conflict, and provide that, in making this determination, the department can consider the number of depredation reports, reported mountain lion incidents, or other relevant factors, as applicable, for each of its regions. The cost estimate for the bill as written when heard in this committee included CDFW staffing needs for six its regions in order to implement and administer the program statewide. Narrowing the scope to one CDFW region would reduce state costs substantially, and would require a fraction of the staff resources that would be necessitated by a statewide program.

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