
SENATE BILL 6436

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senators Patterson, Prentice, Kohl-Welles, Fairley, Heavey, Brown, Kline and Costa

Read first time 01/17/2000. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to the display of wild and exotic animals for
2 public entertainment or amusement; adding a new section to chapter
3 16.52 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 16.52 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The legislature finds that exotic and wild animals used for
8 entertainment and amusement pose public safety hazards, as evidenced by
9 attacks and rampages, which injure or kill both staff and bystanders.
10 Conditions for such animal acts generally deprive the animals of
11 social, physical, and behavioral requirements inherent to their
12 species. Inadequate care and abusive training methods are often
13 documented. Additionally, exotic animal acts present a distorted image
14 of wildlife to the public, disallowing any natural behaviors because of
15 the confinement and training.

16 The purpose of this section is to prohibit traveling displays in
17 Washington state, with exemptions for facilities accredited by the
18 American zoo and aquarium association and the association of

1 sanctuaries, for the filming of movies, and for all domestic animal
2 events and institutions.

3 (2) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
4 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

5 (a) "Display" includes, but is not limited to, the undertaking of
6 any exhibition, act, circus, ride, carnival, parade, race, photographic
7 opportunity, or similar undertaking in which animals are required to
8 perform tricks, fight, or participate as accompaniments in performances
9 for the amusement or benefit for an audience.

10 (b) "Wild or exotic animal" means any or all of the following
11 orders and families, whether bred in the wild or in captivity, and also
12 any or all of their hybrids with domestic species:

- 13 (i) Nonhuman primates and prosimians (chimpanzees, monkeys);
- 14 (ii) Felidae, except domesticated cats;
- 15 (iii) Canidae, except domesticated dogs;
- 16 (iv) Ursidae (all bears);
- 17 (v) Proboscidae (elephants);
- 18 (vi) Cetacea (whales, dolphins, porpoises);
- 19 (vii) Crocodylia (alligators, crocodiles);
- 20 (viii) Marsupialia (kangaroos, opossums);
- 21 (ix) Reptilia (snakes) over eight feet in length and snakes and
22 reptiles of venomous variety;
- 23 (x) Perissodactyla (hippopotamuses);
- 24 (xi) Hyaenidae;
- 25 (xii) Mustelidae (skunks, weasels, otters, badgers);
- 26 (xiii) Procyonidae (raccoons, coatis);
- 27 (xiv) Endentata (anteaters, sloth, armadillos); and
- 28 (xv) Viverridae (mongoose, civets, genets).

29 (c) "Domestic animal" means any animal commonly kept by inhabitants
30 of Washington state as a pet or for companionship:

- 31 (i) Domesticated dogs;
- 32 (ii) Domesticated cats;
- 33 (iii) Domesticated ungulates (horses, mules, donkeys, goats, sheep,
34 pigs, and cattle) or any domestic animal designated by rule under the
35 livestock protection act;
- 36 (iv) Domestic llamas and alpacas;
- 37 (v) Birds; and
- 38 (vi) Ferrets.

1 (d) "Person" means any individual, partnership, corporation,
2 organization, trade or professional association, joint venture,
3 association, trust, estate, or any other legal entity and any officer,
4 member, shareholder, director, employee, agent, or representative of
5 same.

6 (3) No person may display or sponsor a display of wild or exotic
7 animals within the state of Washington.

8 (4) A violation of this section is a misdemeanor.

9 (5) The provisions of this section do not apply to the display of
10 wild or exotic animals:

11 (a) At institutions accredited by the American zoo and aquarium
12 association;

13 (b) At institutions accredited by the association of sanctuaries;

14 (c) On the premises of a television or movie studio setting where
15 such animals are being kept temporarily for the purposes of film
16 production; and

17 (d) At nonaccredited permanent facilities in existence before
18 January 1, 2000, that do not transport animals other than for
19 veterinary care.

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