

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5065

As of January 13, 2025

Title: An act relating to prohibiting the use of certain animals in traveling animal acts.

Brief Description: Prohibiting the use of certain animals in traveling animal acts.

Sponsors: Senators Liias, Lovick and Stanford.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Law & Justice: 1/14/25.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Creates a gross misdemeanor for the use of certain, nondomestic animal species in traveling animal acts.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LAW & JUSTICE

Staff: Patrick Moore (786-7535)

Background: Traveling Animal Shows. Circuses and other entertainment organizations use animals such as lions, tigers, bears, elephants, and apes in performances for live audiences. The animals are displayed and may be made to perform tricks or give rides. These organizations travel to various sites to put on shows. For travel to sites for shows, the animals are often transported by truck, trailer, or railroad.

Penalty. A gross misdemeanor is subject to a term of imprisonment in the county jail for up to 364 days or a fine of up to \$5,000, or both, as determined by the court.

Summary of Bill: A traveling animal act is any display in which an animal is required to perform tricks, give rides, or accompany other entertainment for the benefit of a live audience, when the animal is transported between locations by vehicle for the purpose of performance.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The following animals are prohibited from being used in traveling animal acts before live audiences:

- elephants;
- bears;
- nonhuman primates;
- felines—excluding domestic cats; and
- hybrids of these species.

Allowing any prohibited animal to participate in a traveling animal act is punishable as a gross misdemeanor. Permanent facilities that do not travel are exempt from this prohibition unless a covered animal is transported to the permanent facility just for performance. Cities and counties are allowed to pass laws more restrictive than this prohibition.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 10, 2024.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.