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SENATE BILL 5065

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State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Lias, Lovick, and Stanford

Prefiled 12/16/24.

1 AN ACT Relating to prohibiting the use of certain animals in  
2 traveling animal acts; adding a new chapter to Title 9 RCW; and  
3 prescribing penalties.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The definitions in this section apply  
6 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires  
7 otherwise.

8 (1) "Covered animal" means any of the following animals, and  
9 hybrids thereof:

10 (a) *Elephantidae*;

11 (b) *Felidae*, including any hybrids thereof, but excluding  
12 domestic cats;

13 (c) Nonhuman primate; and

14 (d) *Ursidae*.

15 (2) "Mobile or traveling housing facility" means a transporting  
16 vehicle such as a truck, trailer, or railway car, used to transport  
17 or house animals while traveling for exhibition or other performance.

18 (3) "Performance" means any exhibition, public showing,  
19 presentation, display, exposition, fair, animal act, circus, ride,  
20 trade show, petting zoo, carnival, parade, race, or similar  
21 undertaking in which animals are required to perform tricks, give

1 rides, or participate as accompaniments for the entertainment,  
2 amusement, or benefit of a live audience.

3 (4) "Person" means individuals, corporations, partnerships,  
4 associations, or other legal entities, and agents of those entities.

5 (5) "Traveling animal act" means any performance of animals where  
6 such animals are transported to, from, or between locations for the  
7 purpose of such performance, in a mobile or traveling housing  
8 facility.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Notwithstanding any other provision of  
10 law, no person shall allow for the participation of a covered animal  
11 in a traveling animal act.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This chapter shall not apply to a  
13 performance that takes place at a nonmobile, permanent institution or  
14 other fixed facility, provided that the covered animal is not  
15 transported to such location for the sole purpose of such  
16 performance.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A violation of this chapter is a gross  
18 misdemeanor.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A city or county may adopt an ordinance  
20 governing traveling animal acts that is more restrictive than this  
21 chapter.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act  
23 constitute a new chapter in Title 9 RCW.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** If any provision of this act or its  
25 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
26 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
27 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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