
SENATE BILL 5148

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senators Lias and Boehnke

Prefiled 01/04/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to prohibiting the display of wild or exotic
2 animals for public entertainment or amusement; adding a new chapter
3 to Title 16 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that this chapter is
6 necessary to promote the protection of wild or exotic animals by
7 prohibiting the display of wild or exotic animals for public
8 entertainment or amusement.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
10 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
11 otherwise.

12 (1) "Circus" means any institution featuring exhibits for the
13 purpose of entertainment or amusement and includes, but is not
14 limited to, exhibitions and performances by clowns, acrobats, or
15 animals. However, nothing in this chapter may be construed as
16 authorizing any display of wild or exotic animals otherwise
17 prohibited by this chapter.

18 (2)(a) "Display" means to undertake any exhibition, act, circus,
19 public show, trade show, photographic opportunity, carnival, ride,
20 parade, petting zoo, race, performance, or similar undertaking in

1 which animals are required to perform tricks, fight, or participate
2 in performances or shows for the amusement or entertainment of an
3 audience.

4 (b) "Display" does not include the use or exhibition of animals
5 for educational purposes by persons or organizations, including those
6 that are accredited or available for accreditation by the American
7 zoological association, or by the association of sanctuaries.

8 (3) "Displayed" means to be the subject thereof.

9 (4) "Person" means any individual, partnership, corporation,
10 joint venture, association, trust, estate, or any other legal entity
11 and any officer, member, shareholder, director, employee, agent, or
12 representative of such entities.

13 (5)(a) "Wild or exotic animal" means any or all of the animals
14 identified in this subsection, whether bred in the wild or in
15 captivity, and also any or all of their hybrids with domestic
16 species. The animals identified in this subsection are intended as
17 examples only and the list of animals is not to be construed as an
18 exhaustive list or to otherwise limit each group of animals:

19 (i) Nonhuman primates and prosimians, such as chimpanzees and
20 monkeys;

21 (ii) Felids, except domesticated cats;

22 (iii) Canids, including wolf hybrids and except domesticated
23 dogs;

24 (iv) Ursids, inclusive of all species of bears;

25 (v) Elephants;

26 (vi) Cetaceans, namely marine mammals, such as whales, dolphins,
27 otters, porpoises, seals, and sea lions;

28 (vii) Crocodylians, namely alligators and crocodiles;

29 (viii) Marsupials, such as kangaroos and opossums;

30 (ix) Snakes and reptiles;

31 (x) Ungulates, such as hippopotamus, rhinoceros, giraffe, camel,
32 zebra, and deer;

33 (xi) Hyenas;

34 (xii) Mustelids, such as skunks, weasels, otters, and badgers;

35 (xiii) Procyonids, such as raccoons and coatis;

36 (xiv) Endentates, such as anteaters, sloths, and armadillos;

37 (xv) Viverrids, such as mongoose, civets, and genets;

38 (xvi) Camels; and

39 (xvii) Raptors or birds of prey.

1 (b) It is not the intent of this subsection to include
2 domesticated species such as horses, cows, sheep, or llamas.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** No person may display or sponsor a display
4 of wild or exotic animals on any public or private property.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This chapter may be enforced by the
6 authorities listed under RCW 16.52.015.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Any violation of this chapter is a class 2
8 civil infraction under RCW 7.80.120 and the criminal penalties set
9 forth in chapter 16.52 RCW do not apply.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The provisions of this chapter do not
11 apply to persons or organizations that display wild or exotic animals
12 for educational purposes, including those persons or organizations
13 that are accredited or available for accreditation by the American
14 zoological association, or by the association of sanctuaries.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This chapter may be known and cited as the
16 wild or exotic animal protection act.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 1 through 7 of this act
18 constitute a new chapter in Title 16 RCW.

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