



SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BILL SUMMARY

Senate Bill 248 Printer's No. 230

Prime Sponsor: Senator Leach
Committee: Judiciary

SYNOPSIS:

Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) to prohibit the use of exotic or wild animals in public exhibitions if the animal had been confined in mobile housing facility.

SUMMARY:

Offense

Prohibits the use of any exotic animal or exotic wildlife in an animal act, ride, performance or exhibition if the animal was traveling or living in a mobile housing facility during the preceding 15-day period.

Grades any violation as a misdemeanor of the third degree.

Exceptions

Does not apply to exhibitions in non-mobile facilities, including accredited zoos and aquariums.

Does not apply to outreach programs by accredited zoos or aquariums for educational or conservation purposes if the animal is not confined in a mobile housing facility for more than 12 hours per day.

Does not apply to a university or college laboratory or other research facility registered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Does not apply to films, television, or advertising if the use does not involve a live public exhibition.

Definitions

"Exhibitor" is defined as a person who exhibits an animal to the public for compensation. The term includes the owner or operator of a carnival, circus, fair, or zoo, whether for profit or not. The term does not include the owner or operator of a retail pet store or persons who exhibit a common domesticated household pet and derive less than a substantial portion of income from it.

"Exotic animal" is defined as being native to a foreign country and includes nonhuman primates, lions, tigers, leopards, elephants, camels, antelopes, anteaters, kangaroos, water buffalo, and any species of foreign domestic cattle.

"Exotic wildlife" includes bears, coyotes, lions, tigers, leopards, jaguars, cheetahs, cougars, and wolves.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

Effective in 60 days.

BILL HISTORY:

None.

Prepared by: Cawley 6/2/2017