

Submitter: Qualyn Margain
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB3214

Please pass HB 3214.

Over the years, there has been growing public disapproval about the use of wild animals in entertainment. This concern is shown by the impact of the film Blackfish and the decline in SeaWorld attendance after its release, the closing of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus, and the passage of statewide bans on the use of wild and/or exotic animals in traveling acts in several U.S. states.

The public's desire for animal-free entertainment is so widespread that Ringling Brothers now plans to relaunch the circus in 2023 without animals.

Lions, tigers, bears, and elephants are wild animals – sensitive species whose needs as mammals no circus can meet. This inability for circuses to properly care for these animals has been recognized in over 40 countries around the world, where (some or all) wild animals have become prohibited for use in circuses and other traveling acts; in Canada, there are local bans on the use of animals in circuses in over 33 municipal jurisdictions.

In the U.S., there are currently eight states and over 150 localities (cities, towns, and counties) in 37 states that have passed various restrictions or bans involving the use of wild animals in circuses.

In Oregon that includes Benton County, Clatsop County, Multnomah County.

Thank you for passing this bill.