

Submitter: Jody Bleisch
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB3214

This bill is simply unnecessary, and provides no greater protection for animal welfare than our current animal abuse laws and enforcement. The assumption that animals performing for entertainment is abusive, as the default view, is a gross misjudgment and lack of understanding of both animal and human behavior. The people that train and perform with animals do so out of both love and compassion for the animals and the act of performing with them. Humanity has grown and changed, animals are an integral part of our lives and their welfare is important to all of society, but this proposed law isn't protecting animal welfare, it's projecting a narrow view and perception that demonizes our interactions with animals based on negative historical views rather than current ethical and humane practices. This bill is really an attempt at segregating animals to a passive existence, as nothing more than ornaments to our "natural environment". I love animals, I both enjoy and love seeing people perform with animals and the care and effort it takes to establish those relationships. We should focus on improving our relationship with animals, not attempting to ban those relationships. This proposed law won't help animal welfare, nor humanity.