

Submitter: John Potash
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB3214

My name is John Potash and I am an animal welfare advocate, animal educator, trainer and citizen lobbyist. I have been involved in the animal field for over 35 years and in fact I got my start from a reptile presentation all the way back when I was in elementary school. I can't even wrap my head around how or why anyone believes this bill is a good idea. Currently, I run Get Rattled - Rattlesnake Avoidance Training for Dog and we also offer skunk, porcupine and poisonous toad avoidance training. This bill would put an end to Get Skunked - Skunk Avoidance Training.

Also, this bill, and it's presentation, is misleading and doesn't fully delve into the details. It was stated that for reptiles, it only includes the large animals such as tortoises, monitor lizards and crocodylians. There are many species of tortoises and monitor lizards that do not get large at all, some are less than 12" total length. And even travelling with a decent sized monitor lizard is not difficult or excessively stressful for the animal. In fact, in most cases, if you train an animal from an early age, they not only do not stress from travel, but they enjoy and look forward to it.

It sounds like it is more meant to be pointed towards circus's, but the unintended consequences against small businesses and organizations will be tremendous. This does not appear to be written by animal workers and experts.

Thank you for your attention.