

Bill No.: HB0275 **Effective:** 7/1/2025

LSO No.: 25LSO-0703

Enrolled Act No.: HEA No. 0046

Chapter No.: 93

Prime Sponsor: Byron

Catch Title: Treatment of animals.

Has Report: No

Subject: Amending the crime of and penalty for cruelty to animals concerning wildlife.

Summary/Major Elements:

- Current law provides both misdemeanor and felony offenses for cruelty to animals, depending on the animal and the action taken against the animal.
- This act provides a new offense for cruelty to animals if a person knowingly, and with intent to cause undue suffering, tortures, torments, or mutilates living wildlife, including predatory animals and predacious birds, after taking the living wildlife into their possession.
- The act clarifies that, for this new offense, the immediate killing of living wildlife isn't a violation; and nothing for this new offense is to be construed to require a snare or trap to be checked earlier than required under current law and rule.
- A first offense of the new cruelty offense is a misdemeanor, while a second or subsequent offense is a felony.
- The act also amends the penalty for misdemeanor cruelty to animals to provide imprisonment of up to six (6) months, a fine of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00), or both. The act also provides that a person who is guilty of cruelty to animals shall be subject to the revocation and suspension of any relevant game-and-fish license or privilege.
- The act provides that any person who pursues a predatory animal or a predacious bird by using a vehicle or other conveyance device that injures or incapacitates the animal or bird must make a reasonable effort to immediately kill the animal or bird.

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