

PROHIBITS CERTAIN ANIMALS IN TRAVELING ACTS

An act to prohibit the participation of certain animals in traveling acts.

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Co-Sponsors: Bores, Simone, Lee, Colton, Burdick, Rosenthal, Epstein, Gonzalez-Rojas, Dinowitz, Simon, Steck, Davila, Shimsky, McDonough, Paulin, Kay, Romero, Lasher, Levenberg, Kelles, Otis, Stirpe, Hevesi, Lunsford, Cruz, Seawright, Reyes, Kassay	Co-Sponsors: GIANARIS, KAVANAGH, MARTINEZ, SKOUFIS, WEBB
REFERRED TO: CODES, A/M Dinowitz, Chair	REFERRED TO: ADVANCED TO THIRD READING

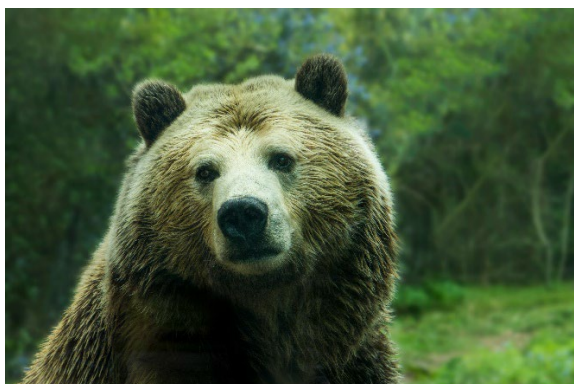


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BACKGROUND:

- Traveling wildlife acts bring the public into dangerous proximity to powerful and unpredictable wild animals. Animal trainers have been attacked, and sometimes killed, in front of audiences.
- While certain federal laws promise humane treatment of circus animals, these laws have traditionally gone unenforced and have been difficult to sanction in court due to issues of legal standing.
- In 2017, New York State enacted legislation prohibiting the use of elephants in entertainment acts, including circuses, carnivals, parades, or trade shows. In 2014, New York prohibited human contact with tigers, lions, or any other big cats. Additionally, NYSDEC issued permits prohibit public contact with endangered or threatened wildlife at fairs and circuses. By population, more than half the state already prohibits wild animals in traveling shows, including New York City, Suffolk County, Westchester County, East Hampton, Southampton, Greenburgh, Wallkill, and Ulysses.
- The traveling act environment is far removed from a wild animal's natural habitat. As the public becomes more aware of the need to protect endangered and threatened species, the presence of such animals in these acts has become difficult to justify. This bill would prohibit the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation from issuing permits or licenses that would authorize non-human primates, bears, kangaroos, wallabies, and cats to appear, in traveling acts. This bill in no way prevents or restricts the showing of agricultural or domestic animals.

SUMMARY OF BILL:

- AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to prohibiting the participation of certain animals in traveling animal acts.
- Prohibits the participation of certain animals in traveling animal acts; prohibits the department of environmental conservation from issuing permits or licenses allowing participation of certain animals in traveling animal acts; excludes certain permanent performing institutions; imposes a civil penalty not to exceed \$1000 for a violation.
- Section one prohibits the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) from issuing permits or licenses that would authorize the exhibition of covered animals in traveling acts. Covered animals are cats that are not domestic cats, kangaroos, wallabies, bears, and non-human primates.
- This bill would prohibit the New York Department of Environmental Conservation from issuing permits or licenses to entities seeking to place wild animals on display in any setting other than a zoo, aquarium, or wildlife sanctuary.