

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 2445

## 94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE SUTHERLAND.

Read 1st time March 25, 2008 and copies ordered printed.

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

5376L.01I

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### AN ACT

To repeal section 578.023, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to dangerous wild animals, with penalty provisions.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 578.023, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 578.023, to read as follows:

578.023. 1. No person [may] **shall own, possess, or** keep any lion, tiger, leopard, ocelot, jaguar, cheetah, margay, mountain lion, Canada lynx, bobcat, jaguarundi, hyena, wolf, bear, **or** nonhuman primate[, coyote, any deadly, dangerous, or poisonous reptile, or any deadly or dangerous reptile over eight feet long,] in any place other than a properly maintained [zoological park,] :

(1) **Transitory** circus[,] ;

(2) **Accredited** scientific[,] or educational institution[,] ;

(3) **Accredited** research laboratory[,] ;

(4) **Permitted** veterinary hospital, **as authorized by the Missouri veterinary medical board created under section 340.202, RSMo;** or [animal refuge,]

(5) Zoological park **that is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums;**

unless such person has registered such [animals] **animal** with the [local] **chief** law enforcement [agency in] **official, or his or her designee, of** the county **or city if not within a county** in which the animal is kept. **Such registration shall be required within five days of acquiring,**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

16 possessing, or moving such an animal to a county or city not within a county. Any  
17 registration under this section shall be required to be renewed on an annual basis  
18 throughout the duration of the animal's presence in such location.

19       2. The chief law enforcement official in subsection 1 of this section, or his or her  
20 designee, shall maintain a registry of any such animals registered under this section. The  
21 registry shall be made available to the public via a publicly-accessible website and shall  
22 additionally be made available for disaster preparedness or for emergencies. The chief law  
23 enforcement official may charge a registration fee of an amount sufficient to cover the  
24 administrative costs of maintaining the registry but such fee shall not exceed fifty dollars  
25 for a first registration or twenty-five dollars for a renewal registration.

26       3. The registration required in this section shall include the following information:

27       (1) The name, address, telephone number, and date of birth of the person owning,  
28 possessing, or keeping the animal;

29       (2) A description of each animal, including the scientific name, given name, sex, age,  
30 color, weight, and any distinguishing marks or coloration that would aid in the  
31 identification of the animal;

32       (3) A photograph of the animal;

33       (4) The exact location where the animal is to be kept;

34       (5) The name, address, and telephone number of the person from whom the  
35 applicant obtained the animal, if known;

36       (6) The microchip number or other identification number for the animal;

37       (7) The name, address, and telephone number of the veterinarian providing  
38 veterinary care to the animal; and

39       (8) The name, address, telephone number, and date of birth of any adult person  
40 designated as a handler for the animal.

41       4. Any animal required to be registered under this section shall be identifiable by  
42 microchip or other reliable animal identification device or system.

43       5. No animal required to be registered under this section shall be allowed to enter  
44 upon or be taken to any public property, or any commercial or retail establishment unless  
45 the owner or possessor is bringing the animal to a licensed veterinarian or veterinary clinic.  
46 No such animal shall be permitted to come into contact with anyone other than the owner,  
47 possessor, a registered designated handler, or a veterinarian administering medical  
48 examination, treatment, or care.

49       6. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a class [C] A  
50 misdemeanor.

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