

HB 2445 -- Registration of Dangerous Wild Animals

Sponsor: Sutherland

This bill changes the laws regarding the ownership, possession, or keeping of certain wild animals. Any person who keeps specified dangerous wild animals in any place other than a properly maintained circus, accredited scientific or educational institution, accredited research laboratory, licensed veterinary hospital as authorized by the Missouri Veterinary Medical Board, or zoological park that is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums must register the animal with the chief law enforcement official in the county in which the animal is kept. The information that must be included on any annual dangerous wild animal registration is specified; and the law enforcement official, or his or her designee, must maintain a registry of all these animals.

Registered animals must be identified by a microchip number or other reliable animal identification device or system and are prohibited from being allowed to enter or be taken to any public property or commercial or retail establishment except to a licensed veterinarian or veterinary clinic.

The bill increases the penalty for a violation of these provisions from a class C misdemeanor to a class A misdemeanor.