

HB 2822 -- ANIMAL ABUSE

SPONSOR: Doll

This bill increases the penalty for animal abuse from a class A misdemeanor to a class E felony. In instances where the defendant has been previously found guilty of animal abuse or where the defendant has been found guilty of consciously torturing or mutilating an animal while it was alive, the penalty is increased from a class E felony to a class D felony.

This bill establishes the "Missouri Animal Abuser Registration Act".

Beginning January 1, 2028, this bill requires the State Highway Patrol to post a publicly-accessible list of any person convicted of an animal abuse offense on or after January 1, 2028, on its website. The bill specifies what information must be included and what information will not be included. All circuit court clerks must forward a copy of the judgment and certain information to the State Highway Patrol within 60 days of the judgment.

Upon a person's first conviction for an animal abuse offense, the State Highway Patrol must keep his or her name and identifying information on the list for two years following the date of conviction. Upon a person's second or subsequent conviction for an animal abuse offense, the State Highway Patrol must keep his or her name and identifying information on the list for five years following the date of conviction. The State Highway Patrol must remove a person's name and information from the list if the sole offense for which the person is listed is expunged.

This bill is similar to HB 40 (2023).