STATE OF WYOMING

DRAFT ONLY NOT APPROVED FOR INTRODUCTION

HOUSE BILL NO.

Animal abuse-predatory animals. Sponsored by: Representative(s) Storer

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to crimes and offenses; providing for a new criminal offense of cruelty to animals; increasing the 2 3 maximum fine for a misdemeanor first offense cruelty to 4 animals conviction; authorizing game and fish law enforcement to enforce the criminal provisions of cruelty 5 to animals; specifying applicability; and providing for an б effective date. 7 8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming: 9 10

Section 1. W.S. 6-3-1002 by creating new subsections
(b), 6-3-1004(a) and 6-3-1010 by creating a new subsection
(b) are amended to read:

[Bill Number]

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2	6-3-1002. Cruelty to animals.
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4	(b) Any person who intentionally injures or disables
5	a predatory animal as defined by W.S. 23-1-101(a)(viii) by
6	use of an automotive vehicle, motor-propelled wheeled
7	vehicle, or vehicle designed for travel over snow shall
8	upon inflicting the injury or disability immediately use
9	all reasonable efforts to kill the injured or disabled
10	predatory animal. Any person who fails to immediately use
11	all reasonable efforts to kill an injured or disabled
12	predatory animal as required by this subsection commits
13	cruelty to animals.
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16 17	STAFF COMMENT
18	STAFF COMMAN
19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26	The newly created subsection (b), above, uses the language for "automotive vehicle, motor-propelled wheeled vehicle, or vehicle designed for travel over snow" from W.S. 23-3- 306(a), which is the only place in statute where that language is used. The Committee may wish to consider whether the terms need defined. "Vehicle" is defined under W.S. 6-1-104(a)(xi) as "any device by which persons or property may be moved, carried or transported over land,
27 28 29 30	water or air". Alternatively "motor vehicle" is defined under W.S. 31-1-101(a)(xv) which includes "off-road recreational vehicle". The definition is as follows:

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STATE OF WYOMING

(a) Except as otherwise provided, as used in this 1 2 act: 3 (xv) "Motor vehicle" means every vehicle which 4 5 is self-propelled except vehicles moved solely by human power, electric bicycles or motorized skateboards. б The 7 term includes the following vehicles as hereafter defined: 8 9 "Off-road recreational vehicle" means: (K) 10 11 (I) A recreational vehicle primarily 12 designed for off-road use that is fifty (50) inches or less 13 in width measured from the outside of one (1) tire rim to 14 the outside of the opposite tire rim and that has an 15 unladen weight of one thousand one hundred (1,100) pounds 16 or less; 17 18 (II) Any motorcycle not required by 19 law to be licensed that has an unladen weight of six 20 hundred (600) pounds or less, is designed to be ridden off-21 road with the operator astride upon a seat or saddle and 22 travels on two (2) tires; and 23 24 (III) Any multi-wheeled motorized vehicle not required by law to be licensed and is designed 25 26 for cross-country travel on or over land, sand, snow, ice 27 or other natural terrain and which has an unladen weight of 28 more than nine hundred (900) pounds. 29 Additionally, "snowmobile" is defined under W.S. 32-2-30 401(a)(ii) as "any mechanically driven vehicle of a type 31 32 which utilizes sled type runners, or skis, or any endless 33 belt tread or combination of these, designed primarily for 34 operation over snow". 35 36 Committee may also wish to consider providing The 37 definitions for other terms in the newly created subsection 38 (b) on the previous page for clarity in the criminal 39 statute. Notably, the Committee may wish to consider if the term "use all reasonable efforts" should be further 40 41 defined. 42 43 **** 44 45

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2025
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1	6-3-1004. Penalties; misdemeanor offenses.
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3	(a) A first offense of cruelty to animals or of a
4	violation of W.S. $6-3-1003$ is a misdemeanor punishable by
5	imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, a fine of
6	not more than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00)<u>one</u>
7	thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), or both.
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11	STAFF COMMENT
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13	The Treatment of Predators Working Group considered an
14	amendment to W.S. 6-3-1008(a)(vii) to include the term
15	"humane" as follows:
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17	6-3-1008. Use of agricultural and livestock
18	management practices, wildlife management and humane
19	destruction not prohibited.
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21	(a) Nothing in this article may be construed to
22	prohibit:
23	
24	(vii) The hunting, capture, killing or
25	destruction of any predatory animal, pest or other wildlife
26	in any <mark>humane</mark> manner not otherwise prohibited by law.
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28	The Working Group removed this amendment but asked for
29	further consideration of a different term to be used in
30	lieu of "humane". As a note, "humane" is defined by the
31	Webster-Merriam Dictionary as "marked by compassion,
32	sympathy, or consideration".
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34	Within statute, there are a few different terms that are
35	used to describe the manner in which conduct shall take
36	place such as "safe" or "reasonable". The Committee may
37	wish to consider whether to include the amendment to W.S.

6-3-1008(a)(vii) and what term should be used to define the 1 2 manner in which a person may hunt, capture, kill or destroy 3 a predatory animal. 4 5 ***** 6 7 6-3-1010. Impounding and forfeiture hearing; 8 9 enforcement. 10 11 (b) In addition to any other peace officer with 12 authority to enforce this article, game and fish law 13 enforcement personnel qualified pursuant to W.S. 9-1-701 14 through 9-1-707 are authorized to enforce the provisions of 15 this article. 16 17 Section 2. This act shall apply to any person who 18 intentionally injures or disables a predatory animal by use 19 of an automotive vehicle, motor-propelled wheeled vehicle, 20 or vehicle designed for travel over snow on and after July 1, 2025. 21 22 23 Section 3. This act is effective July 1, 2025. 24 25 (END)

[Bill Number]

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