

**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  
2 criminal offense of cruelty to animals; increasing the  
3 maximum fine for a misdemeanor first offense cruelty to  
4 animals conviction; authorizing game and fish law  
5 enforcement to enforce the criminal provisions of cruelty  
6 to animals; specifying applicability; and providing for an  
7 effective date.

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9 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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

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**6-3-1002. Cruelty to animals.**

(b) Any person who intentionally injures or disables a predatory animal as defined by W.S. 23-1-101(a)(viii) by use of an automotive vehicle, motor-propelled wheeled vehicle, or vehicle designed for travel over snow shall upon inflicting the injury or disability immediately use all reasonable efforts to kill the injured or disabled predatory animal. Any person who fails to immediately use all reasonable efforts to kill an injured or disabled predatory animal as required by this subsection commits cruelty to animals.

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**STAFF COMMENT**

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, 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:

1 (a) Except as otherwise provided, as used in this  
2 act:

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4 (xv) "Motor vehicle" means every vehicle which  
5 is self-propelled except vehicles moved solely by human  
6 power, electric bicycles or motorized skateboards. The  
7 term includes the following vehicles as hereafter defined:

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9 (K) "Off-road recreational vehicle" means:

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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;

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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  
25 vehicle not required by law to be licensed and is designed  
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.

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30 Additionally, "snowmobile" is defined under W.S. 32-2-  
31 401(a)(ii) as "any mechanically driven vehicle of a type  
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".

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36 The Committee may also wish to consider providing  
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  
40 term "use all reasonable efforts" should be further  
41 defined.

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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)~~one  
7 thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), or both.

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**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:

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24                       (vii) The hunting, capture, killing or  
25 destruction of any predatory animal, pest or other wildlife  
26 in any humane 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.

1 6-3-1008(a)(vii) and what term should be used to define the  
2 manner in which a person may hunt, capture, kill or destroy  
3 a predatory animal.

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8 6-3-1010. Impounding and forfeiture hearing;  
9 enforcement.

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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.

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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  
21 1, 2025.

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23 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2025.

24

25 (END)