

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

As Engrossed: H4/13/21 H4/19/21

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1883

By: Representatives Christiansen, Vaught, Lundstrum, Beaty Jr., Cavanaugh, Coleman, M. Gray, Hudson, Lowery, McClure, McGrew, Payton, Tollett

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING WORKING ANIMAL PROTECTIONS; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

THE WORKING ANIMAL PROTECTION ACT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 14, Chapter 54, Subchapter 11, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

14-54-1105. Working animal protection – Definition.

(a)(1) As used in this section, "working animal" means a nonhuman animal used for the purpose of performing a specific duty or function in commerce or animal enterprise, including without limitation human service, transportation, education, competition, or exhibition.

(2) As used in this section, "working animal" does not mean poultry, swine, dairy cows, beef cattle, sheep, goats, or other similar nonperformance production enterprise.

(b)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the right to utilize a working animal for the benefit and welfare of the working animal or the individual the working animal serves is guaranteed.

(2) An ordinance or resolution shall not be enacted by a municipality that terminates, bans, effectively bans, or creates an undue hardship relating to the job or use of a working animal or animal enterprise in commerce, service, legal hunting, agriculture, husbandry, transportation, ranching, entertainment, education, or exhibition.



(c) This section does not alter state laws or rules that regulate animal care, public health, or public safety, including without limitation § 5-62-101 et seq., and § 14-54-103.

(d) This section does not prohibit a municipality from establishing or altering an ordinance regarding animal care, public health, or public safety.

(e) This section supersedes a municipal ordinance, resolution, or rule that conflicts with this section but does not supersede a municipal zoning ordinance under § 14-56-401 et seq.

/s/Christiansen