STATE OF NEW YORK

5542

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 19, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. ENGLEBRIGHT, L. ROSENTHAL, GLICK, COLTON, GOTTFRIED, SCHMITT, HEVESI, EPSTEIN, LAVINE, PAULIN, QUART -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. SIMON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Environmental Conservation

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to prohibiting the issuance of permits authorizing the use of wild animals in circuses or traveling animal acts

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The environmental conservation law is amended by adding a new section 11-0541 to read as follows:

§ 11-0541. Prohibition on the issuance of permits authorizing the use of wild animals in circuses or traveling animal acts.

1. The department shall not issue a permit or license, including, but not limited to, an education or exhibition permit or an endangered or threatened species license, authorizing the exhibition of a wild animal in a circus notwithstanding a valid United States department of agriculture license, or a traveling animal act.

2. Such a prohibition shall not apply to:

a. a facility accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums;

b. a wildlife sanctuary.

3. For the purposes of this section the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "traveling animal act" shall mean any performance of wild animals where such animals are transported to, from, or between locations for the purpose of such performance; and

(b) "performance" shall mean any exhibition or public showing in which wild animals are required to perform tricks, give rides, or participate as accompaniments for the entertainment, amusement, or benefit of a live audience.

§ 2. This act shall take effect December 31, 2022.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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