



January 24, 2022

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## HOUSE BILL No. 1248

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DIGEST OF HB 1248 (Updated January 24, 2022 12:29 pm - DI 140)

**Citations Affected:** IC 14-8; IC 14-22.

**Synopsis:** Direct contact with specified animals. Prohibits a person that owns or possesses a specified animal from allowing a member of the public to come into direct contact, or enter into a proximity that allows for or permits direct contact, with the specified animal. Provides that a violation of the law is a Class B infraction. Excludes from the substance of the bill physical contact or proximity between certain individuals and a specified animal. Defines the terms "direct contact", "proximity", "specified animal", and "trained".

**Effective:** July 1, 2022.

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## Abbott, Campbell

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January 6, 2022, read first time and referred to Committee on Natural Resources.  
January 24, 2022, reported — Do Pass.

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HB 1248—LS 6982/DI 129





January 24, 2022

Second Regular Session of the 122nd General Assembly (2022)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2021 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## HOUSE BILL No. 1248

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning natural and cultural resources.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1 SECTION 1. IC 14-8-2-70.8 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
2 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY  
3 1, 2022]: **Sec. 70.8. "Direct contact", for purposes of IC 14-22-26.5,**  
4 **has the meaning set forth in IC 14-22-26.5-2.**

5 SECTION 2. IC 14-8-2-221.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
6 CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
7 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022]: **Sec. 221.5. "Proximity", for purposes**  
8 **of IC 14-22-26.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 14-22-26.5-3.**

9 SECTION 3. IC 14-8-2-262.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
10 CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
11 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022]: **Sec. 262.5. "Specified animal", for**  
12 **purposes of IC 14-22-26.5, has the meaning set forth in**  
13 **IC 14-22-26.5-4.**

14 SECTION 4. IC 14-8-2-282.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
15 CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
16 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022]: **Sec. 282.5. "Trained", for purposes of**  
17 **IC 14-22-26.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 14-22-26.5-5.**

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1 SECTION 5. IC 14-22-26.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
 2 AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 3 JULY 1, 2022]:

4 **Chapter 26.5. Specified Animals**

5 **Sec. 1. This chapter does not apply to physical contact or**  
 6 **proximity between a specified animal and any of the following:**

7 (1) The owner of the facility in which the specified animal is  
 8 kept.

9 (2) A trained employee of the facility's owner who is  
 10 conducting the trained employee's duties, as determined by  
 11 the facility's owner, for the specified animal.

12 (3) A contractor, intern, service provider, or another person  
 13 who is performing duties for the specified animal under a  
 14 contract or other engagement with the facility's owner.

15 (4) A licensed veterinarian.

16 (5) A veterinary intern or specialist accompanying a licensed  
 17 veterinarian.

18 (6) A registered veterinary technician under the direct or  
 19 indirect supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

20 (7) A veterinary student under the direct supervision of a  
 21 licensed veterinarian.

22 **Sec. 2. (a) As used in this chapter, "direct contact" means**  
 23 **physical contact between the public and a specified animal.**

24 **(b) The term includes the taking of a photograph of a specified**  
 25 **animal except where there is located between the public and the**  
 26 **specified animal a permanent physical barrier designed to prevent**  
 27 **physical contact between the public and the specified animal.**

28 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "proximity" means a distance**  
 29 **created by a visual or physical barrier, including a barrier fence,**  
 30 **safety line, or other means to signify a restricted area, that is**  
 31 **designed to prevent a member of the public from touching a**  
 32 **primary, permeable barrier that contains a specified animal.**

33 **Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "specified animal" means a live**  
 34 **animal that is any of the following:**

35 (1) An animal from the following species of Felidae:

36 (A) Lions (*Panthera leo*).

37 (B) Tigers (*Panthera tigris*).

38 (C) Leopards (*Panthera pardus*).

39 (D) Snow leopards (*Panthera uncia*).

40 (E) Jaguars (*Panthera onca*).

41 (F) Mountain lions (*Puma concolor*).

42 (G) Any hybrid of a species listed in clauses (A) through



1                   (F).  
2                   (2) A bear (Ursidae).  
3                   (3) An animal designated by the department in a rule  
4                   authorized by this chapter.  
5                   Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "trained" means having  
6                   participated in specific instruction with a specified animal.  
7                   Sec. 6. A person that owns or possesses a specified animal may  
8                   not allow a member of the public to:  
9                   (1) come into direct contact with; or  
10                  (2) enter into a proximity that allows for or permits direct  
11                  contact with;  
12                  the specified animal, regardless of the age of the specified animal.  
13                  Sec. 7. The department may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to  
14                  implement this chapter.  
15                  Sec. 8. A person that violates this chapter commits a Class B  
16                  infraction.



COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Natural Resources, to which was referred House Bill 1248, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to HB 1248 as introduced.)

EBERHART

Committee Vote: Yeas 7, Nays 5

