

SESSION OF 2022

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2364

As Recommended by House Committee on
Judiciary

Brief*

HB 2364 would amend the crime of cruelty to animals to define “torturing” to include, but not be limited to, confining or restricting an animal in a way that is likely to cause death.

Under the continuing elements of this crime, knowingly and maliciously torturing any animal is a nonperson felony.

A whereas clause would provide the amendments made by the bill be known as “Bowie’s Law.”

Background

The bill was introduced by the 2021 House Committee on Judiciary at the request of the Wichita Animal Action League.

House Committee on Judiciary

In the House Committee hearing on January 20, 2022, representatives of the Humane Society of the United States, Kansas Animal Control Association, and Wichita Animal Action League testified as **proponents** of the bill, stating the bill would allow a felony charge if a person knowingly and maliciously confines an animal to deprive the animal of food and water or in a location where death is likely to result. A representative of the Northeast Kansas Animal Welfare Association provided written-only proponent testimony. A

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

representative of the Kansas Livestock Association provided written-only opponent testimony.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Office of Judicial Administration states enactment of the bill would have a negligible fiscal effect on Judicial Branch operations.

The Kansas Sentencing Commission states enactment of the bill would not have an effect on prison admissions or beds.

Crimes; cruelty to animals; definition of torturing; Bowie's Law