

S 2541

Big Cat Public Safety Act of 2016

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Animals

Introduced: Feb 11, 2016

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. (Feb 11, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2541>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CT • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Feb 11, 2016
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Apr 4, 2016
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		Apr 4, 2016
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jun 23, 2016
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Jul 11, 2016
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Sep 19, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Environment and Public Works Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 11, 2016

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Animals

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 3546	Related bill	Oct 6, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands.

Big Cat Public Safety Act of 2016

This bill amends the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit any person from breeding or possessing any live animal of any prohibited wildlife species (i.e., any live species of lion, tiger, leopard, cheetah, jaguar, or cougar or any hybrid of such species). Breeding means facilitating propagation or reproduction (whether intentionally or negligently), or failing to prevent propagation or reproduction. The bill extends forfeiture provisions to fish, wildlife, or plants that are bred or possessed.

The bill revises the list of entities that are exempt from Lacey Act prohibitions to include:

- institutions accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums;
- certain facilities that have an active written contract with an Association of Zoos and Aquariums Species Survival Plan or Taxon Advisory Group for breeding prohibited wildlife species;
- persons who do not allow the transportation and display of prohibited wildlife species off-site;
- current owners of animals that were born before this bill's enactment if the animals are registered with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service within 180 days; and
- certain traveling circuses that hold Class C licenses under the Animal Welfare Act.

Entities exempt from Lacey Act prohibitions must require that current owners and circuses not allow direct contact between the public and the prohibited wildlife species.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 11, 2016:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 11, 2016:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.