

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1794

91ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES LEGAN, BARNITZ, BLACK, BERKOWITZ, MYERS,
KING AND RICHARDSON (Co-sponsors).

Read 1st time February 5, 2002, and 1000 copies ordered printed.

TED WEDEL, Chief Clerk

4275L.011

AN ACT

To repeal sections 578.405, 578.407, 578.409, and 578.412, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof four new sections relating to animal research and production facilities, with a penalty provision.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 578.405, 578.407, 578.409, and 578.412, RSMo, are repealed and
2 four new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 578.405, 578.407, 578.409,
3 and 578.412, to read as follows:

578.405. 1. Sections 578.405 to 578.412 shall be known and may be cited as "The
2 Animal Research and Production Facilities Protection Act".

3 2. As used in sections 578.405 to 578.412, the following terms mean:

4 (1) "Animal", every living creature, domestic or wild, but not including Homo sapiens;

5 (2) "Animal facility", any facility, **animal farming operation, business or organization**
6 engaging in legal scientific research or agricultural production or involving the use of animals,
7 including any organization with a primary purpose of representing livestock production or
8 processing, any organization with a primary purpose of promoting or marketing livestock or
9 livestock products, any person licensed to practice veterinary medicine, any organization
10 involved in the production of pet food or pet food research, and any organization with a primary
11 purpose of representing any such person, organization, or institution. The term shall include the
12 owner, operator, and employees of any animal facility [and], the offices [and], **barns, buildings,**
13 **or other structures, the** vehicles of any such persons while engaged in duties related to the
14 animal facility, and any premises, **private or public property**, where animals are located,

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

15 **including but not limited to the barns or areas where the animals are pastured, housed, or**
16 **otherwise quartered;**

17 (3) "Director", the director of the department of agriculture.

578.407. No person shall:

2 (1) Release, steal, or otherwise intentionally cause the death, injury, or loss of any animal
3 at or from an animal facility and not authorized by that facility;

4 (2) Damage, vandalize, or steal any property in or on an animal facility;

5 (3) Obtain access to an animal facility by false pretenses for the purpose of performing
6 acts not authorized by the facility;

7 (4) Enter or otherwise interfere with an animal facility with the intent to destroy, alter,
8 duplicate or obtain unauthorized possession of records, data, material, equipment, or animals;

9 (5) Knowingly obtain, by theft or deception, control over records, data, material,
10 equipment, or animals of any animal facility for the purpose of depriving the rightful owner or
11 animal facility of the records, material, data, equipment, or animals, or for the purpose of
12 concealing, abandoning, or destroying such records, material, data, equipment, or animals;

13 (6) Enter or remain on an animal facility with the intent to commit an act prohibited by
14 this section;

15 (7) **Photograph, videotape, or otherwise obtain images from within the animal**
16 **facility without the express written consent of the animal facility;**

17 (8) **Intentionally or knowingly release or introduce any pathogen or disease in or**
18 **near an animal facility that has the potential to cause disease in any animal at the animal**
19 **facility or which otherwise threatens human health or biosecurity at the animal facility.**

578.409. 1. Any person who violates section 578.407:

2 (1) Shall be guilty of a misdemeanor for each such violation unless the loss, theft, or
3 damage to the animal facility exceeds three hundred dollars in value;

4 (2) Shall be guilty of a class D felony **for a violation of subdivision (7) of section**
5 **578.407 or** if the loss, theft, or damage to the animal facility property exceeds three hundred
6 dollars in value but does not exceed ten thousand dollars in value;

7 (3) Shall be guilty of a class C felony if the loss, theft, or damage to the animal facility
8 property exceeds ten thousand dollars in value but does not exceed one hundred thousand dollars
9 in value;

10 (4) Shall be guilty of a class B felony if the loss, theft, or damage to the animal facility
11 exceeds one hundred thousand dollars in value.

12 2. Any person who intentionally agrees with another person to violate section 578.407
13 and commits an act in furtherance of such violation shall be guilty of the same class of violation
14 as provided in subsection 1 of this section.

15 3. In the determination of the value of the loss, theft, or damage to an animal facility, the
16 court shall conduct a hearing to determine the reasonable cost of replacement of materials, data,
17 equipment, animals, and records that were damaged, destroyed, lost, or cannot be returned, as
18 well as the reasonable cost of lost production funds and repeating experimentation that may have
19 been disrupted or invalidated as a result of the violation of section 578.407.

20 4. Any persons found guilty of a violation of section 578.407 shall be ordered by the
21 court to make restitution, jointly and severally, to the owner, operator, or both, of the animal
22 facility, in the full amount of the reasonable cost as determined under subsection 3 of this
23 section.

24 5. Any person who has been damaged by a violation of section 578.407 may recover all
25 actual and consequential damages, punitive damages, and court costs, including reasonable
26 attorneys' fees, from the person causing such damage.

27 6. Nothing in sections 578.405 to 578.412 shall preclude any animal facility injured in
28 its business or property by a violation of section 578.407 from seeking appropriate relief under
29 any other provision of law or remedy including the issuance of an injunction against any person
30 who violates section 578.407 **including any relief authorized under subsection 5 of this**
31 **section.** The owner or operator of the animal facility may petition the court to permanently
32 enjoin such persons from violating sections 578.405 to 578.412 and the court shall provide such
33 relief.

 578.412. 1. The director shall have the authority to investigate any alleged violation of
2 sections 578.405 to 578.412, along with any other law enforcement agency, and may [take any
3 action within the director's authority necessary for the enforcement of sections 578.405 to
4 578.412] **initiate civil legal action in the circuit court of the county where the violation**
5 **occurred.** The attorney general, the highway patrol, and other law enforcement officials shall
6 provide assistance required in the conduct of an investigation.

7 2. The director may promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the enforcement of
8 sections 578.405 to 578.412. No rule or portion of a rule promulgated under the authority of
9 sections 578.405 to 578.412 shall become effective unless it has been promulgated pursuant to
10 the provisions of section 536.024, RSMo.