

HB 352 -- Animal Research and Production Facilities

Co-Sponsors: Guest, Dethrow, Townley, Shoemaker (8), Whorton, Myers, Sander, Hobbs

This bill prohibits any person from photographing, videotaping, or otherwise obtaining images from a location within an animal facility that is not legally accessible to the public without the express written consent of the animal facility. Persons who violate this portion of the bill are guilty of a class D felony.

The bill also prohibits any person from intentionally releasing in any animal facility any pathogen or disease that has the potential to cause disease in any animal or threatens human health or biosecurity. Persons who violate this portion of the bill are guilty of a class B felony.

The definition of an animal facility is expanded to include barns, buildings, or other structures which are part of any animal farming operation, business, or organization engaged in legal scientific research or agricultural production.

The Director of the Department of Agriculture is given the authority to initiate a civil action in the circuit court of the county in which a violation of the provisions of the bill occurred.