

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Eighty-First Session  
May 14, 2021**

The Committee on Natural Resources was called to order by Chair Howard Watts at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 14, 2021, Online and in Room 3143 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda ([Exhibit A](#)), the Attendance Roster ([Exhibit B](#)), and other substantive exhibits, are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website at [www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/81st2021](http://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/81st2021).

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Assemblyman Howard Watts, Chair  
Assemblywoman Lesley E. Cohen, Vice Chair  
Assemblywoman Natha C. Anderson  
Assemblywoman Annie Black  
Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May  
Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton  
Assemblyman John Ellison  
Assemblywoman Cecelia González  
Assemblywoman Alexis Hansen  
Assemblywoman Susie Martinez  
Assemblywoman Robin L. Titus  
Assemblyman Jim Wheeler

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:**

None

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jann Stinnesbeck, Committee Policy Analyst  
Allan Amburn, Committee Counsel  
Devon Kajatt, Committee Manager  
Nancy Davis, Committee Secretary

Minutes ID: 1233



**OTHERS PRESENT:**

None

**Chair Watts:**

[Roll was taken.] Members, we only have one item before us today, which is a work session for Senate Bill 344 (1st Reprint).

**Senate Bill 344 (1st Reprint): Enacts provisions relating to the importation, possession, sale, transfer and breeding of dangerous wild animals. (BDR 50-871)**

**Jann Stinnesbeck, Committee Policy Analyst:**

As Legislative Counsel Bureau staff, I can neither support nor oppose any proposal that comes before the Committee. Senate Bill 344 (1st Reprint) was heard in this Committee on May 5, 2021 [[Exhibit C](#)]. This bill makes it unlawful for a person, unless he or she meets one of several exemptions, to: import, possess, sell, transfer, or breed a dangerous wild animal; or allow any member of the public to come in direct contact with a dangerous wild animal. Among the exemptions are certain resort hotels and qualified visual media productions. Veterinarians and certain law enforcement personnel are authorized to deal with dangerous wild animals in carrying out their duties. Additionally, a person who possesses a dangerous wild animal before July 1, 2021, is allowed to keep that animal if the person meets certain requirements, including registering with the sheriff or metropolitan police department, as applicable, and the local animal control authority with jurisdiction over the premises where the dangerous wild animal is located within two months after July 1, 2021, and annually thereafter.

A law enforcement officer or an animal control agent may seize a dangerous wild animal if the agent believes the owner of the animal has violated certain provisions. A person or entity given temporary custody of a dangerous wild animal may petition a court to gain compensation from the person from whom the animal was seized.

Lastly, this bill provides that a violation of the provisions regarding the breeding, importation, possession, sale, or transfer of dangerous wild animals is punishable as a misdemeanor. This bill provides that its provisions must not be construed as prohibiting a county or a city from adopting or enforcing any rule of law that places additional restrictions or requirements on the breeding, importation, possession, sale, or transfer of a dangerous wild animal.

The Assembly Committee on Natural Resources proposed an amendment, which makes the following changes:

- Removes the prohibition that a person shall not import, possess, sell, transfer, or breed a dangerous wild animal in this state;
- Clarifies that a person shall not allow a dangerous wild animal to come in direct contact with a member of the public;
- Clarifies that the prohibition of direct contact with a dangerous wild animal does not apply to: the owner of the animal; certain employees or other persons engaged by the owner of the animal; veterinarians; law enforcement officers or animal control officers; or the Department of Wildlife; and
- Removes provisions related to the placement of dangerous wild animals with certain persons.

The amendment is attached to the work session document [pages 2 through 9, [Exhibit C](#)].

**Chair Watts:**

Are there any questions?

**Assemblywoman Cohen:**

I want to confirm that the only animals impacted with this bill are the animals specifically listed in the bill.

**Chair Watts:**

That is correct. All of the provisions only apply to the animal species explicitly listed in that portion of the bill.

**Assemblyman Ellison:**

We brought up gray wolves and hybrids during the hearing on this bill. Are the wolf hybrids still exempt?

**Chair Watts:**

I know there was a response submitted by the Department of Wildlife that addressed the issue of hybrids.

**Allan Amburn, Committee Counsel:**

Hybrids are not included in section 4, subsection 4, paragraph (a). This is just referring to gray wolves, not hybrids.

**Chair Watts:**

Are there any other questions? Seeing none, I will accept a motion to amend and do pass S.B. 344 (R1).

ASSEMBLYWOMAN COHEN MADE A MOTION TO AMEND AND DO  
PASS SENATE BILL 344 (1ST REPRINT).

ASSEMBLYWOMAN GONZÁLEZ SECONDED THE MOTION.

Is there any discussion on the motion?

**Assemblywoman Cohen:**

This is one of those cases in which I do not want to let the perfect be the enemy of the good. I am still concerned with the safety issue of people having these wild animals—for the animals themselves and for the public. I do think we are taking out the economic incentive for some people who do not have good intentions to have these animals and benefit from them economically.

**Chair Watts:**

Is there any other discussion? Seeing none, we will vote.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

I will assign the floor statement to Assemblywoman Cohen. The only other item on our agenda is public comment. Is there anyone wishing to provide public comment? Hearing no one, and with no other business before us, we are adjourned [at 2:07 p.m.].

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Nancy Davis  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Assemblyman Howard Watts, Chair

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EXHIBITS**

[Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda.

[Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster.

[Exhibit C](#) is the Work Session Document for Senate Bill 344 (1st Reprint), presented by Jann Stinnesbeck, Committee Policy Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.