

**House Study Bill 533 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE  
ON JUDICIARY BILL BY  
CHAIRPERSON HOLT)

**A BILL FOR**

- 1 An Act relating to bestiality and providing penalties.
- 2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 717C.1, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code  
2 2024, is amended to read as follows:

3 *b.* ~~"Sex act" means any sexual contact between a person and~~  
4 ~~an animal by penetration of the penis into the vagina or anus,~~  
5 ~~contact between the mouth and genitalia, or by contact between~~  
6 ~~the genitalia of one and the genitalia or anus of the other.~~  
7 of the following conduct that is not an accepted veterinary  
8 medical practice, an accepted animal husbandry practice that  
9 provides care for animals, an accepted practice related to the  
10 insemination of animals for the purpose of procreation, or an  
11 accepted practice related to conformation judging:

12 (1) An act between a person and an animal involving physical  
13 contact between the sex organ, genitals, or anus of one and the  
14 mouth, sex organ, genitals, or anus of the other.

15 (2) Any touching or fondling by a person, either directly  
16 or through clothing, of the sex organ, genitals, or anus of  
17 an animal or any insertion, however slight, of any part of a  
18 person's body or any object into the vaginal or anal opening  
19 of an animal.

20 (3) Any insertion, however slight, of any part of an  
21 animal's body into the vaginal or anal opening of a person.

22 (4) Advertising, offering, selling, transferring,  
23 purchasing, or otherwise obtaining an animal with the intent  
24 that the animal be used for sexual contact in this state.

25 (5) Organizing, promoting, conducting, or participating  
26 as an observer of an act involving conduct described in  
27 subparagraph (1), (2), or (3).

28 (6) Permitting conduct described in subparagraph (1), (2),  
29 or (3) to occur in any premises under the person's ownership  
30 or control.

31 (7) Photographing or filming obscene material, as defined  
32 in section 728.1, depicting a person engaging in conduct  
33 described in subparagraph (1), (2), or (3).

34 (8) Distributing, selling, publishing, or transmitting  
35 obscene material, as defined in section 728.1, depicting a

1 person engaged in conduct described in subparagraph (1), (2),  
2 or (3).

3 (9) Possessing with the intent to distribute, sell,  
4 publish, or transmit obscene material, as defined in section  
5 728.1, depicting a person engaged in conduct described in  
6 subparagraph (1), (2), or (3).

7 (10) Forcing, coercing, enticing, or encouraging a minor to  
8 engage in conduct described in subparagraph (1), (2), or (3).

9 Sec. 2. Section 717C.1, subsection 2, Code 2024, is amended  
10 to read as follows:

11 2. a. A person who performs a sex act with an animal is  
12 guilty of an aggravated misdemeanor.

13 b. A person who commits a second or subsequent violation of  
14 this section is guilty of a class "D" felony.

15 c. A person previously convicted of a violation of section  
16 717B.2, 717B.3, 717B.3A, or 717B.3B who commits a violation of  
17 this section is guilty of a class "D" felony.

18 EXPLANATION

19 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
20 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

21 This bill relates to bestiality.

22 Under current law, a person who performs a sex act with an  
23 animal is guilty of an aggravated misdemeanor. Current law  
24 defines "sex act" as any sexual contact between a person and  
25 an animal by penetration of the penis into the vagina or anus,  
26 contact between the mouth and genitalia, or by contact between  
27 the genitalia of one and the genitalia or anus of the other.

28 The bill provides that a "sex act" includes the following  
29 conduct that is not an accepted veterinary medical practice,  
30 an accepted animal husbandry practice that provides care for  
31 animals, an accepted practice related to the insemination  
32 of animals for the purpose of procreation, or an accepted  
33 practice related to conformation judging: an act between a  
34 person and an animal involving physical contact between the  
35 sex organ, genitals, or anus of one and the mouth, sex organ,

1 genitals, or anus of the other; any touching or fondling by  
2 a person, either directly or through clothing, of the sex  
3 organ, genitals, or anus of an animal or any insertion, however  
4 slight, of any part of a person's body or any object into the  
5 vaginal or anal opening of an animal; any insertion, however  
6 slight, of any part of an animal's body into the vaginal or  
7 anal opening of a person; advertising, offering, selling,  
8 transferring, purchasing, or otherwise obtaining an animal with  
9 the intent that the animal be used for sexual contact in this  
10 state; organizing, promoting, conducting, or participating  
11 as an observer of an act involving a sex act with an animal;  
12 permitting a sex act with an animal to occur in any premises  
13 under the person's ownership or control; photographing or  
14 filming obscene material depicting a person engaging in a  
15 sex act with an animal; distributing, selling, publishing,  
16 or transmitting obscene material depicting a person engaged  
17 in a sex act with an animal; possessing with the intent  
18 to distribute, sell, publish, or transmit obscene material  
19 depicting a person engaged in a sex act with an animal; or  
20 forcing, coercing, enticing, or encouraging a minor to engage  
21 in a sex act with an animal.

22 The bill provides that a person who performs a sex act with  
23 an animal is guilty of an aggravated misdemeanor. A second  
24 or subsequent violation is a class "D" felony. A person  
25 who was previously convicted of a violation of Code section  
26 717B.2 (animal abuse), 717B.3 (animal neglect), or 717B.3A  
27 (animal torture), or 717B.3B (animal mistreatment) who commits  
28 bestiality is guilty of a class "D" felony. An aggravated  
29 misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more than two  
30 years and a fine of at least \$855 but not more than \$8,540. A  
31 class "D" felony is punishable by confinement for no more than  
32 five years and a fine of at least \$1,025 but not more than  
33 \$10,245.

34 Current law also requires a person convicted of bestiality  
35 to submit to a psychological evaluation and treatment at the

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1 person's expense, in addition to any sentence authorized by  
2 law.