

Comment Report

SSB 1195

A bill for an act limiting local legislation that prohibits the operation of an animal enterprise or the use of a working animal.(See SF 483.)

Subcommittee Members: Sweeney-CH, Green, Kinney

Date: 02/23/2021

Time: 08:30 AM

Location: RM 24A

Name: Briana Fortner

Comment: Iowans do not support SSB 1195 SSB 1195 is a piece of legislation being pushed by interest groups and is a direct affront to the will of the people of Iowa. Supporters of this bill are ignoring the calls of thousands of us Iowans who have worked for decades to improve the lives of animals, enhance public safety, and protect their own personal property throughout the state. This bill would overturn local ordinances like:1. Clinton, IA enforces ordinances limiting the maximum number of horses per acre as a means of mitigating overcrowding and public nuisance issues.2. Akron, IA prohibits the use of horse carriages in certain areas of city parks to protect public safety.3. Fairfield, IA requires that fencing for cattle lots be 75feet from neighboring properties.4. Waterloo, IA prohibits use of the bull hook, a metal spear used to force captive elephants to perform in circuses.5. Story County, IA requires more thorough and frequent inspections of puppy mills than the state requires. Passing SSB 1195 is not only bad for Iowa, but it will take our state in the opposite direction that the majority of Iowans want. Iowans want more animal protections... not less.

Name: kim adams

Comment: I strongly oppose this legislation. I don't see the benefit for Iowans to take away local control of animals. I am certain this legislation is in part about ending local ordinances set up to keep puppy mills out of their counties. I would also like to know how the law is qualifying dogs as working animals? It appears that you want to take a companion animal and put them in the livestock category.I also noticed that there is a puppy mill run by Gary Zumbach, Zumbach Yorkies, is this any relation to Senator Zumbach who introduced this bill?

Name: Rachel Seale

Comment: Please do not pass SSB1195. I strongly oppose this bill that was developed interest groups outside of Iowa. This bill interferes with a local governments ability to regulate working animals and animal enterprise.SSB 1195 would not only overturn the three humane ordinances we've been able to pass in Iowa, but would make it illegal for cities or counties to pass future humane ordinances.It would make Iowa even more of a safe haven for the puppy mill industry than it already is. I have seen results of the puppy mill industry as someone who has adopted from an Iowa animal rescue group and also serves as a volunteer.On top of all of that, this bill will also eliminate the rights of localities to regulate any activity that involves animals, such as wild animals used in circuses, products made from animals kept in inhumane conditions, and more. Please do not support this legislation.

Name: Lesa Jacobsen

Comment: What in the world are you thinking with SSB 1195?? Are you NOT LISTENING to Iowans?? WE DO NOT WANT THIS BILL!!! Stop turning deaf ears to the demands of Iowans who strive diligently to protect and preserve the rights and lives of animals

in our state! Iowans demand the protection of animals in this state and will stand for no less so, stop listening to a few special interest groups who are not at all interested in protecting animals. They do not represent the majority of people in our state. And one more thing: dogs are NOT WORKING ANIMALS. Dogs are family, so dont even go there! Pull up your pants, grow a spine, and OPPOSE SSB 1195!!!!

Name: Allison Jaynes

Comment: I urge you to vote NO on SSB 1195. This bill is promoted by special interest groups who want to bend control to their benefit. This is the opposite of local government. Many good and beneficial ordinances will be overturned by this bill (I'm sure you'll be given the detailed examples). Don't let these bullies take away control at our local city and community levels. Work for small government and vote NO for SSB 1195.

Name: Brandy Meredith

Comment: The fact that this is even being considered is a joke. 1195 would not only overturn the three humane ordinances we've been able to pass in Iowa, but would make it illegal for cities or counties to pass future humane ordinances. We are already known as one of the puppy mill capitals of the country and have multiple breeding facilities on the horrible hundred list. Why? Because our leaders and agriculture department do not hold the owners accountable. By passing this bill, you are not only endangering the welfare of animals in these facilities but all companion animals in the state. Iowans do not want this! Iowans want more laws that will PROTECT the companion animals and harsher penalties for the violators. Vote NO!!!!

Name: Miriam Kashia

Comment: Once again we see a proposed bill that puts profits over decency, outside interests over the will of most Iowans, state control over local communities, and a disregrd for nonhuman beings. Bad bill. Bad outcome. Bad governance. Don't pass SSB 1195.

Name: Tracy Struble

Comment: Passing SSB 1195 is not only bad for Iowa, but it will take our state in the opposite direction that Iowans want. Iowans want more animal protections... not less. We are already nearly last in the NATION with animal cruelty laws....are you trying to make us LAST. We should be having bill protecting...not eliminating!!! LISTEN TO IOWANS...what you were elected for.

Name: Amy Holcomb

Comment: Iowans do not support SSB 1195. We have worked hard to pass animal welfare legislation, which this bill would eliminate. Iowa still has very weak animal welfare laws, and this bill would make it worse. Iowans want local control to regulate activity that involves animals. Don't let out of state industry lobbyists control our state!

Name: Chris Miller

Comment: Do not support SSB 1195! Its ridiculous that we are going to remove protection for animals! I am furious that this is even being considered after we have fought for years and years to get basic rights for animals. Those who abuse them walk away scott free or with very little punishment. Why are you protecting them?? Stop!!

Name: Lynn Gallagher

Comment: Vote NO on SSB 1195. Iowans do not want the state to dictate to counties and cities what they can and can't do. Each city and county is unique. They want local control so that communities can make decisions about what is best for them. This bill would overturn ordinances that protect animals and would prevent communities from enacting new ones. What special interests are involved in promoting this bill? Iowans want stronger protections for animals. This bill would take us in the wrong direction. Vote NO!

Name: Angelique Rivera

Comment: As an Iowan and a voter, I am commenting to politely urge you to NOT support SSB 1195. Cities all over Iowa have ordinances in place that are there to protect our citizens and the animals in our state from disease, cruelty, neglect and fraud. This one bill would strip away the rights of every city and county in the state and would make many of your constituents very unhappy. Please let Iowa cities retain their rights to pass animal ordinances as they relate to human health and safety, as well as animal welfare. Passing SSB 1195 is not only bad for Iowa, but it will take our state in the opposite direction that the majority of Iowans want. Iowans want more animal protections... not less.

Name: Terri Macey

Comment: Supporters of this bill are ignoring the rights of Iowa communities to control the quality of life for humans and animals within their jurisdictions. Usurping this control is a power grab by the legislature in order to serve outside interest groups. Perhaps these groups are finding your campaigns? Vote no on this bill that blatantly disregards the will of Iowans and the right to local control of issues that affect quality of life in Iowa communities.

Name: Jill Statler

Comment: Please vote no on SSB 1195. Its way past time Iowa starts standing up against animal abuse. This is doing the exact opposite. Im very saddened this is even being considered. Please do the right thing and stand up for the voiceless. Vote no. Jill Statler North Liberty, IA

Name: Kellie Baustian

Comment: Animals have feelings they feel loneliness, cold, sadness, confusion; many of the same emotions humans feel, but they just cant voice them. To treat them like they dont feel or deserve love is cruel and heartless. Please do the right thing and oppose this bill.

Name: Karen L. GREENLEAF

Comment: Please vote no on SB 1195. Our animals need to be protected and there needs to be local control. Please don't cave to special interest.

Name: Helen Benesh

Comment: Iowa must attract and retain young people to live in this state. Iowa ranks horribly on animal humane issues. We will not attract workers and employers if we continue to ignore how cruelly we treat animals in this State. Do not support this bill!! What are you so afraid of?

Name: Cameo Cott

Comment: On behalf of myself and the Drake Law Chapter of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund, we respectfully request denial of SSB1195. Through education and experience, we have become aware of the sentience of beings other than ourselves and have increasingly recognized mistreatment and use in entertainment as unacceptable. The broad language of this bill serves to undo much of the growth we, as a mindful society, have made. Over the years we, as a country, have made impressive movements towards the freeing and nonuse of wild animals in circuses, sideshows, roadside zoos, and other establishments that profit from the horrors of captive breeding of wild animals. This bill will undo local ordinances prohibiting establishments and activities that have repeatedly been shown to be festering pools of abuse and neglect of animals who should never be caged. The very training of "enterprise animals" for purposes of "entertainment" involves abuse of sentient beings that no person should be comfortable supporting. It is no secret that Iowa is among the worst in its tolerance, and even encouragement, of puppy mills. Currently, Iowa is #2 in largescale commercial breeding facilities and #4 in the nation for USDA noncompliance. As a State, we have proven ineffective at regulating these

operations, and complicit, in allowing breeders to continually skirt regulations placed to ensure proper housing and treatment of these animals. Across the country, cities are recognizing the failure of their State to properly regulate these operations and have taken progressive steps by prohibiting area pet stores from selling animals from such operations, and this bill will only serve to extend the free reign of despicable and illegal treatment. The use of animals in research and testing increasingly proves unnecessary thanks to technological advancements. Regulation of care and treatment of these animals is disturbing, at best. Iowa schools and research facilities are no strangers to controversy and allegations of abuse and neglect. Repeatedly we see evidence that the rules and regulations in place at the federal and state level are terribly insufficient. When a locality finds the need to address this issue by implementing tighter restrictions or prohibitions, they do so based upon the enlightenment that such treatment is inhumane and unacceptable. Rather than interfere with steps taken to make treatment in this field catch up with the growing sentiment of society, the State needs to reevaluate its own stance and catch up. Localities are taking it upon themselves to proactively protect these animals because the State refuses to do so. These localities are listening to the voices within their communities to do better, to be better. Localities that have chosen to prohibit the use of wild animals as "entertainment" have made a conscious decision to move beyond our base nature of self above all else. Localities are recognizing the value these animals possess is not encompassed by the entertainment they can provide and the inherent abuses which occur to provide that entertainment. It is no more the States place to force localities to tolerate this treatment than it is for the federal government to force the same on the State. The people in these areas have spoken and their voices have been heard by those with the capabilities of acting upon their wants, it is not your place to silence them.

Name: Sandra Alper

Comment: SSB 1195 is a bad bill that should never have been proposed. In addition to stripping local control from Iowans, it enables and promotes maltreatment of nonhuman beings, for entertainment and profit. There is nothing in this bill that would make Iowans proud. But it would make money for those who have no respect for the environment or animals. Iowa was once an international model of good stewardship for our land and animals. Sadly, we are now attracting national attention for water pollution, maltreatment of farm animals, and puppy mills.

Name: Janine Gunderson

Comment: Dear Subcommittee Members, Please oppose SSB 1195 taking away local government's ability to regulate working animals and animal enterprise. Cities and counties need the ability to pass future humane ordinances. We need to work together to move forward not backwards. We need to be the voice of innocent animals. Janine Gunderson Scott County Resident

Name: Angie Slaughter

Comment: SSB 1195 This should not become a law. It is obvious that this is only being considered because there are people who are losing out on my making a buck in a way that is cruel to animals, otherwise why would the state have a reason to propose a law that would do nothing except force some local governments to overturn their ordinances to prevent that practice. In my book, it is immoral to make money off of cruelty. Have the courage to do what is right and drop this overreaching proposal.

Name: Maria Mendizabal

Comment: Vote NO on SSB 1195.

Name: Rina Crawford

Comment: Please, please oppose SSB 1195 for the benefit of Iowans and animals. Thank you very much.

Name: Sara Jacobmeyer Pinkham

Comment: Please vote NO on SSB 1195. Iowans do not want this. It is both a step backward and an intrusion on local government, which is run by people who know the needs and wishes of their community members. Cities and counties in Iowa should be able to outlaw cruel animal use and treatment without restriction by state legislation. This bill oversteps and is not good for communities or for animals. A vote for this bill is a vote for puppy mills, among so many other things. This bill will result in many more cases of animal abuse. Iowa needs to be better than that.

Name: Linda Fritz-Murphy

Comment: Please vote no to SSB1195. This legislation represents an infringement on local municipalities and casts a dark shadow on Iowa values. Please demonstrate that you work for the people and decency above the special interests greed.

Name: Robert Knecht

Comment: As a resident and Voter in the state of Iowa I ask that you do not pass SB 1195 there is not a need for such a bill and as humans we the people need to be the voice for our pets and all pets. We also need to stop the puppy mill operations that occur throughout the State of Iowa please be a voice for the animals that have to live in these unhuman conditions that benefit the operators and do nothing for the State of Iowa accept give it a bad name. And I also noticed that there is a puppy mill run by Gary Zumbach, Zumbach Yorkies, is this any relation to Senator Zumbach who introduced this bill? And please Vote NO on this and all bills that do not benefit animals in the State of Iowa and be their voice. Thank You for your time in reading this.