

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

A Bill

HOUSE BILL

1232

By: Representatives Allen, Glover, Hinshaw,
Jones and McCoy

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO PROHIBIT BEAR EXPLOITATION; TO PROVIDE PENALTIES
THEREFORE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. (a) A person commits the offense of unlawful bear exploitation if he knowingly:

- (1) Promotes, engages in, or is employed at a bear wrestling match;
- (2) Receives money for the admission of another person to a place kept for bear wrestling; or
- (3) Sells, purchases, possesses, or trains a bear for bear wrestling.
- (4) For purposes of exploitation, subjects a bear to surgical alteration in any form including, but not limited to declawing, tooth removal, and severing tendons.

(b) Unlawful bear exploitation is a Class D felony.

(c) Upon the arrest of any person for violating the provisions of this act, the arresting law enforcement officer or animal control officer shall have authority to seize and take custody of all bears in the possession of the arrested person.

(d) Upon the conviction of any person for violating the provisions of this act, any court of competent jurisdiction shall have authority to order the forfeiture by the convicted person of all bears the use of which was the basis of the conviction. Any bears ordered forfeited under the provisions of this act shall be placed in the custody of a society which is incorporated for the prevention of cruelty to animals.

(e) In addition to the fines, penalties, and forfeitures imposed under the provisions of this act, the court may require the defendant to make restitution to the state, any of its political subdivisions, or a society

which is incorporated for the prevention of cruelty to animals for housing, feeding, or providing medical treatment to bears used for unlawful wrestling."

SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 3. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.