

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 65 of Title 3.2 an article numbered 14,*
3 *consisting of sections numbered 3.2-6594, 3.2-6595, and 3.2-6596, relating to dangerous captive*
4 *animal exhibits; penalty.*

5 [S 1030]

6 Approved

7 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

8 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 65 of Title 3.2 an article numbered**
9 **14, consisting of sections numbered 3.2-6594, 3.2-6595, and 3.2-6596, as follows:**

10 *Article 14.*11 *Dangerous Captive Animal Exhibits.*12 **§ 3.2-6594. Definitions.**13 *As used in this article:*

14 *"Dangerous captive animal" means any bear, cougar, jaguar, leopard, lion, nonhuman primate, or*
15 *tiger, or any hybrid of any such animal. "Dangerous captive animal" does not include a clouded*
16 *leopard.*

17 *"Direct contact" means physical contact or proximity where physical contact is possible, including an*
18 *opportunity for photography without a permanent physical barrier designed to prevent physical contact*
19 *between the public and a dangerous captive animal.*

20 *"Keeper" means any person, as defined in § 1-230, who owns, has custody of, or is in control of a*
21 *dangerous captive animal.*

22 **§ 3.2-6595. Direct contact with dangerous captive animals prohibited.**

23 *It is unlawful for any keeper to provide or offer to provide to any member of the public, for free or*
24 *for a cost, direct contact with a dangerous captive animal.*

25 **§ 3.2-6596. Violation; penalty.**

26 *Any person who violates any provision of this article is guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor and is*
27 *subject to a fine of not more than \$500.*

28 **2. That the provisions of this act shall become effective on July 1, 2021.**