

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

4 HOUSE BILL 3281

By: Humphrey

7 AS INTRODUCED

8 An Act relating to animals; creating the Endangered
9 Ark Foundation Preservation Act; providing purpose;
10 defining terms; exempting certain acts from cruelty
11 to animals; providing for codification; and providing
12 an effective date.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

14 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1685.2 of Title 21, unless there
16 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 A. This section shall be known and may be cited as the
18 "Endangered Ark Foundation Preservation Act".

19 B. The purpose of this act is to preserve the safety, health,
20 and well-being of elephants in Oklahoma.

21 C. As used in the Endangered Ark Foundation Preservation Act:

22 1. "Free contact" means the use of tools and techniques such as
23 a guide and tether to help elephants cope with certain conditions or
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1 as necessary during intensive procedures associated with treating
2 chronic illnesses or animal reproduction; and

3 2. "Protected contact" means the contact between elephant and
4 handler through a barrier such as a chute or an elephant restraint
5 device.

6 D. It shall not be considered cruelty to animals as provided in
7 Section 1685 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes for licensed
8 operators of a nonprofit entity caring for elephants to practice
9 free contact and protected contact.

10 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.

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12 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
13 dated 02/08/2022 - DO PASS.

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