



2023 LEGISLATIVE REPORT AND SCORECARD



Desert Nesting Bald Eagle photo by Robin Silver



ARIZONA 2023 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Karen Michael

The 2023 session of the Arizona Legislature was by far the longest in state history, lasting 204 days. Three animal protection bills sponsored by Senator John Kavanagh and supported by Humane Voters of AZ (HVA) were passed and signed into law. A fourth bill, sponsored by Senator TJ Shope, allows veterinarians to use telemedicine to treat animals. Arizona Humane Society and Humane Society of Southern Arizona led efforts to get this measure passed.



Thanks to Kavanagh's efforts, \$550,000 will be allocated from the state budget to fund spay neuter surgeries throughout Arizona. Spaying and neutering is the most important and effective means of reducing the numbers of homeless animals who die in shelters and on the street. This crucial funding will help not only animals and their families, but entire communities across our state. He also sponsored a bill that creates a study committee to address Arizona animal control shelter concerns, and a measure that requires ambulance companies to treat and transport injured police dogs to veterinary clinics.

In addition to supporting Sen. Kavanagh's bills, HVA expended significant efforts to stop damaging legislation that would have weakened cruelty protection for animals used by dog breeders, rodeos, circuses, and other animal use industries. SB1251 was misrepresented as a measure to prevent restrictions on rodeos. In fact, this legislation was part of a national campaign by animal industry lobbyists formed to protect puppy mills in the Midwest. The bill passed the Legislature on party lines but thankfully was vetoed by Governor Hobbs.

Legislators continued their attempt to derail Arizona's citizen initiative process -- the single most important tool for protecting animals. This session legislators referred a measure to the 2024 ballot that requires 10 percent of initiative petition signatures from each of the state's 30 legislative districts. This would create an extremely difficult threshold to meet, especially for grassroots citizen initiative campaigns comprised largely of volunteers. Other anti-initiative bills were introduced but failed to pass the Legislature.

The Good Bills

Bills Passed by Legislature and Signed into Law

[SB1133 - appropriation; spaying and neutering fund](#) (Kavanagh), provides crucial spay neuter funding to address pet overpopulation in Arizona. This was HVA's highest priority bill to get passed. In 2022 Arizona Companion Animal Spay and Neuter Committee (AzCASNC) Vice Chair Sonia Hernandez and HVA volunteers met with Sen. Kavanagh to address lack of funding for spay neuter surgeries, especially in rural counties. He agreed to sponsor legislation to address the issue.



As introduced, the original bill appropriated \$450,000 from the state general fund in fiscal year 2023-2024 to the spaying and neutering of animals fund, which is led by AzCASNC. Animal Defense League of Arizona (ADLA) President Stephanie Nichols-Young testified in committee on the crucial need for spay neuter funding to shelters most in need. SB1133 passed the Senate 18-11-1. As chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Sen. Kavanagh was able to get the bill included in the state budget with an increased appropriation of \$550,000.

Thanks to Sonia Hernandez, AzCASNC members, and Lauren Bouton for their help in getting this measure passed.

HVA supported this measure.

SB1133 passed the Senate 18-11-1 and was signed by Governor Hobbs as part of the approved budget.

[SB1067 - study committee; animal control standards](#) (Kavanagh), establishes a study committee to address animal control shelter concerns statewide. This was another priority measure for HVA and ADLA. Our groups have had significant concerns that there are no uniform standards for animal control agencies in Arizona. Counties vary widely in their local laws, shelters, and protocol. SB1067 creates a joint study committee composed of animal care and control (ACC) leaders, shelter veterinarians, and legislators to research and recommend best practices for statewide animal control standards. In the House Land and Rural Affairs (LARA) committee meeting, Sen. Kavanagh expressed his strong desire for this study committee to gather information from the diverse community of ACC providers to enable agencies to share ideas and resources, address concerns, and determine where the state can be more effective. Thanks to ADLA's Stephanie Nichols-Young who testified in House and Senate committees on the need for these standards. Also thanks to Sonia Hernandez for her efforts on the bill.



HVA supported this measure.

SB1067 passed the Senate 26-3-1, passed the House 33-25-1-1 and was signed by Governor Hobbs.

[SB1053 - veterinary medicine; electronic means](#) (Shope), allows veterinarians to use telemedicine to treat patients. Efforts to pass this measure were led by Arizona Humane Society and the Humane Society of Southern Arizona. SB1053 allows veterinarians licensed in Arizona to establish a veterinary-client relationship through telemedicine. This legislation allows veterinarians to use technology to deliver virtual care to pets in need, bridging the gap between the state-wide veterinarian shortage with safe, effective, and timely care.

HVA supported this measure.

SB1053 passed the House 57-1-1 and passed the Senate for a final vote of 26-3-0-0-1 and was signed by Governor Hobbs.

[SB1068 - NOW police dogs; emergency treatment](#) (Kavanagh), was a strike-everything amendment to an unrelated bill. It requires ambulance services to authorize its properly trained emergency medical care technicians (EMCTs) to provide treatment to a police dog and to transport him/her to a veterinary clinic or hospital equipped to provide emergency treatment to dogs.

HVA supported this measure.

The striker amendment to SB1068 passed the Senate 22-6-2, passed the House 57-0-3, and was signed by Governor Hobbs. The six senators who voted 'no' on SB1028 are Senators Farnsworth, Gonzales, Hernandez, Hoffman, Mendez, and Peterson.

Good Bills that Failed to Pass the Legislature

[SB1086 - racketeering; animal fighting; cockfighting](#) (Kavanagh), would have added the crimes of animal fighting and cockfighting to Arizona's state Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act. Prior to the legislative session, HVA and ADLA consulted local and national law enforcement, veterinarians, and humane groups involved in animal fighting cases. They all agreed that adding cockfighting/animal fighting to the state RICO statute would provide much-needed tools for prosecution and enforcement.



Photo by Animal Wellness Action

measure will pass in an upcoming session.

HVA supported this measure.

SB1086 was not heard in committee, so the bill died.

In December 2022, the DEA and local law enforcement busted a large-scale cockfighting ring in Phoenix. There has also been an increased number of cases of Avian flu, a highly contagious virus that could kill or result in mandated depopulation of large numbers of birds in agricultural operations and avian rescue facilities. We had hoped that these factors would provide incentives for passing a bill to strengthen enforcement and penalties for cockfighting and other animal fighting. However, for a number of factors this legislation was not granted a committee hearing. We are hopeful that this

[SB1059 - animal shelter; rescue organization; definition](#) (Kavanagh), would have required that animal rescue groups spay and neuter animals prior to adoption. Current law requires that county animal care and control agencies and animal shelters must spay or neuter a dog or cat before they are adopted or at a later date if circumstances prevent this procedure from being immediately performed. SB1059 would have included animal rescue organizations to the list of entities that must ensure animals are spayed or neutered prior to being adopted. This is standard practice for reputable rescue groups. The purpose of the bill was to address rescues that do not adhere to this important protocol.



Photo by PACC911

HVA supported this measure.

SB1059 passed the Senate 24-4-2, but was held in the House LARA Committee, so the bill died.

[SB1150 - supervisors; powers; duties; animal wellness](#) (Kavanagh), would have expanded nonmandated services authorized by the county board of supervisors to include wellness programs. Currently nonmandated services are limited to low cost spay and neuter services, public education, adoption, and other services but do not include vaccinations. SB1150 would have ensured that animals receive this preventive medical care. The bill died after Sen. Jake Hoffman refused to grant a hearing in the Senate Government Committee that he chairs.

HVA supported this measure.

SB1150 was not heard in committee, so the bill died.

[SB1015 - unlawful public sale of animals](#) (Kavanagh), would have expanded the ban on the public sale of animals statewide. The original 2008 law prohibiting the public sale of animals applies only to counties with a population of more than 800,000. Many animals sold on public streets are bred and raised in poor conditions. And since the animals are typically not spayed and neutered or vaccinated, they contribute to overpopulation, the euthanasia of thousands of homeless animals each year in Arizona shelters, and the spread of disease. The bill died after Sen. Jake Hoffman refused to grant it a hearing in his Senate Government Committee.

HVA supported this measure.

SB1015 was not heard in committee, so the bill died.

[SB1057 - Alpine horse herd; management](#) (Kavanagh), would have created protection for the Alpine Horse Herd based in the Apache National Forest near Alpine, Arizona. Recent shootings have left 43 Alpine Horses dead and 11 missing and presumed dead. Supported by the Salt River Wild Horse Management Group (SRWHMG), the bill was similar to that of the Salt River Horse Act passed in 2016, which prohibits the harassment, capture, or slaughter of Salt River Wild Horses. SB1057 was assigned to two committees, making it harder to pass. Committee Chairs Sen. Jake Hoffman and Sen. Sine Kerr would not grant the bill hearings, so SB1057 failed. You can read the SRWHMG press release on the bill [here](#).



HVA supported this measure.

SB1057 was not heard in committee, so the bill died.

[HB2335 - cat declawing; prohibition; exceptions](#) (Shah: Martinez), would have prohibited non-therapeutic declawing of cats. Rep. Amish Shah, an emergency department physician, also sponsored this bill in 2020, 2021, and 2022. The bills all failed due to opposition from the Arizona Veterinary Medical Association and AZPetVet, a large chain of local veterinary clinics.

Declawing is one of the most painful, routinely performed procedures in all veterinary medicine, where each toe of the cat is amputated at the first joint. Major health authorities including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institutes of Health (NIH), and others all agree that declawing cats to protect humans is “not advised.” Read the HVA bill alert on the 2022 cat declaw bill [here](#).

HVA supported this measure.

HB2335 was not heard in the House LARA Committee, so the bill died.

[HB2340 - pet dealers; state preemption; repeal](#) (Shah), would have repealed the 2016 law that preempted Phoenix and Tempe city ordinances banning sales of puppy mill dogs in pet stores. This legislation was introduced in the 2021 and 2022 sessions following an investigation by Bailing Out Benji and Animal Wellness Action alleging that Puppies 'N Love and Animal Kingdom pet stores trucked in hundreds of dogs from puppy mill breeders cited for health issues. You can read the investigative report [here](#) and an Arizona Republic article [here](#). Learn more on the 2016 pet store law in the [HVA 2016 Legislative Report](#).



Eleanor by Bailing Out Benji

HVA supported this measure.

HB2340 did not receive a committee hearing, so the bill died.

[HB2741 - unlawful kangaroo exchange](#) (Shah), would have prohibited the sale of shoes and other products made from dead kangaroos. Supported by [Animal Wellness Action](#), the bill's goal was to address the commercial killing of kangaroos. AWA estimates that around two million wild kangaroos are killed annually, primarily to manufacture soccer cleats. Although HB2741 died without a committee hearing, the bill was helpful in convincing Nike to stop selling products made from kangaroos.

HVA supported this measure.

HB2741 was not heard in committee, so the bill died.

[SB1364 G&F; appointment recommendation board; repeal](#) (Mendez) would have repealed the special-interests-controlled board that recommends candidates to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, charged with managing and protecting wildlife. In 2010, the Legislature passed a measure that created a recommendation board controlled by ranchers and elite hunting clubs to appoint candidates to the Commission. The law requires that the governor is limited to selecting only "board-endorsed" candidates. This has resulted in policies that are out of step with the best available science and polling on views of a majority of Arizonans, limited public participation and ultimately better policies for state wildlife management. Senator Mendez and others have introduced this legislation almost every session, but the bills have never been granted a committee hearing.

HVA supported this measure.

As with all other attempts to pass this measure, SB1098 was not granted a committee hearing, so the bill died.

The Bad Bills

[SB1251 - working animals; restrictions; prohibition](#) (Shamp: Borrelli, Gowan, Kerr, et al.), was the most dangerous bill of the session for animal protection, and HVA's top priority to stop. This measure would have prohibited local governments from enacting any ordinances to address inhumane treatment of animals if the law restricts the use of working animals in animal enterprises. SB1251 was overly broad and could apply to any "working animal" that is used for "animal enterprises", including herding or guard dogs, animal breeders, and other industries. The bill's vague language could have had negative consequences and invite litigation like the Arkansas lawsuit over its similar law.

SB1251 would have unjustly removed the ability for local governments to address issues that affect animals in their own communities. Arizona's 2016 preemption bill related to puppy mills has not been enforced and has made Arizona a magnet for pet sellers dealing in puppy mill dogs.



Photo by Healing Hearts Animal Rescue

Moreover, SB1251 was misrepresented by its sponsor and supporters as a measure to prevent restrictions on rodeos. However, in reality it was part of a national campaign by The Cavalry Group, an animal industry lobby group that opposes even the most moderate animal protection legislation. The organization was formed to protect puppy mills in the Midwest and recently launched the Working Animal Protection Act (WAPA) in several states. The primary goal of WAPA bills is to free businesses that profit from animals from any restrictions or accountability under local ordinances.

HVA, ADLA, and other animal protection groups met with bill sponsor Sen. Janae Shamp (a freshman and rodeo participant) and agricultural lobbyists. Our groups submitted a draft amendment to address our concerns on the bill's potential for unintended negative consequences. We did not receive a reply until right before the Senate floor vote on

SB1251, leaving us with no time to respond. The sponsor's floor amendment included some of our proposed revisions, but other important recommendations were rejected, including the removal of vague and potentially damaging language like the term "lawful commerce", which could be used to protect some abusive animal industries. We also remained concerned with the bill's terms "unduly restricts", "working animal" and "animal enterprise", and how courts would interpret that language. Despite those issues, other animal welfare groups chose to take a neutral position on SB1251, while ADLA and HVA continued to strongly oppose it. Unfortunately the last-minute amendment, misinformation, and confusion resulted in some otherwise animal-friendly senators voting 'yes' on the bill.



Goats with Horns Animal Sanctuary

Arizona has a long history of legislators working with agricultural lobbyists to pass bills aimed at decimating or weakening cruelty protections for farm animals. SB1251 was yet another of these attempts, all of which are documented in HVA [Legislative Reports](#). HVA's and ADLA's opposition to the bill could have jeopardized the spay/neuter funding measure, but we believed it was crucial to stop this damaging measure from passing into law.

ADLA and HVA met with lawmakers in both parties, staff analysts, distributed bill [fact sheets](#), and generated a significant number of constituent calls to legislators requesting 'no' votes on SB1251. However, bill sponsors and supporters falsely claimed that humane groups were in support of the measure, when in fact no animal protection groups supported SB1251. This enabled the bill to narrowly pass the legislature on a party line vote.

ADLA and HVA launched an intensive campaign to get SB1251 vetoed by Governor Hobbs. We met with her staff and reached out to local government and community leaders, who wrote letters to the governor requesting a veto. We circulated a veto request petition that received hundreds of signatures. Some well-respected animal protection groups also submitted veto requests. You can read HVA's letter to the governor requesting that she veto SB1251 [here](#).

On April 12th, Governor Hobbs vetoed SB1251. In her veto letter, she described the bill as "a solution in search of a problem."

HVA opposed this measure and supported Gov. Hobb's veto.

SB1251 passed the Senate 18-12, passed the House 31-27-2, and was vetoed by Governor Hobbs.

[SB1308 - fireworks; aerial devices; retailers; licensure](#) (Gowan), reintroduced his bill to legalize aerial fireworks in all counties every day of the year, and would have eliminated various requirements with the American Pyrotechnics Association Standard. The devices, which shoot about 100 feet into the air and explode, would increase the already frightening effects of fireworks on pets, animal shelters, wildlife, and veterans with PTSD. Sen. Gowan has sponsored this legislation several times over past sessions, which has consistently failed due to strong opposition from animal protection groups, firefighters, veterans, and concerned citizens. Sen. Gowan owns a business that sells fireworks. In 2019, he sponsored legislation to expand days for fireworks sales, which was passed and signed into law. This year's bill again failed after being held in committee.

HVA opposed this measure.

SB1308 was held in the Senate Commerce Committee, so the bill died.

Attack on Citizen Initiative Rights

Arizona's citizen ballot measure process is the single most important tool for protecting Arizona's animals. Our initiative process is a constitutional right enacted at statehood in 1912. One of our founders' biggest concerns was the right to pass laws through initiatives. The first initiative passed in Arizona recognized women's right to vote. Thanks to grassroots citizen ballot measures, voters banned indiscriminate leghold traps, snares, and poisons on public lands in 1994. Cockfighting was outlawed in 1998. In 2006, voters prohibited the inhumane confinement of pregnant pigs and calves raised for veal in industrial agriculture operations. All these measures failed in the Legislature, yet were passed by Arizona voters, most by large margins. In 1998 voters passed [Proposition 105, the Voter Protection Act](#), to prevent the Legislature from undermining citizen initiatives and to protect measures passed by voters. The Legislature has placed several



referenda on the ballot that could have destroyed the public initiative process, but voters overwhelmingly defeated most of the damaging referenda, indicating the strong determination of citizens to defend voting rights.



In 2017, the Arizona Legislature passed two bills that have severely damaged our public initiative process. These laws have driven up the cost of hiring petition circulators and changed the state's standard for initiatives to 'strict compliance', which could result in valid signatures being tossed out for even the smallest technical mistakes. The Legislature's passage of these two measures has made it even more difficult, time consuming, and expensive for Arizonans to place a measure on the ballot. The challenge proved insurmountable for the citizen initiative campaign to protect Arizona's wild cats from trophy hunting and trapping. That grassroots campaign, which relied largely on volunteers, was suspended in 2018.

As polls consistently indicate, Arizona voters strongly support animal protection and our public initiative process. However, each session legislators continue to run bills that could weaken or dismantle the important right. These bills generally, with very few exceptions, are extremely partisan. The issue of citizen initiatives could be related to any number of issues unrelated to animal protection and it is possible that otherwise animal-friendly legislators are considering a bigger picture when supporting these bills. That is why one of HVA's priority goals is to continually educate legislators on the importance of citizen initiatives for protecting large numbers of Arizona's animals.

2023 Anti-Initiative Bills

[SCR1015 - initiative; referendum; signatures; legislative districts](#) (Mesnard: Bennett, Kaiser, Kerr, et al.) refers to the ballot a measure to require citizen initiative campaigns to collect signatures from 10 percent of electors from each legislative district. Currently, initiative campaigns must submit signatures from 10 percent of all voters statewide, not in each of the 30 legislative districts. This would make it virtually impossible for grassroots groups to place citizen initiatives or referenda on the ballot. While wealthy campaigns might be able to hire enough petition circulators, it would be insurmountable for campaigns that rely primarily on volunteers. The other factor is that an initiative could be blocked by a small number of residents in one or more legislative districts who can gather enough opposition. This would allow a small minority to make decisions for the majority of voters.

SCR1015 passed the legislature on a party line vote and will appear on the 2024 ballot. Hopefully, Arizonans will not vote to defeat their own power and this damaging legislation will be defeated.

HVA opposed this bill and will continue to oppose the 2024 ballot measure.

SCR1015 passed the Senate 16-13-1, passed the House 31-29 and was transmitted to the Secretary of State. It will appear on the ballot in the 2024 general election.



[SCR1002 - constitutional amendments; sixty percent approval](#) (Kern) would have referred to the ballot a measure that increases the percentage of votes required for an initiative or referendum that amends the Arizona Constitution to be approved by voters by a supermajority of 60 percent, instead of the current simple majority. This measure, if passed by voters, would have created an extremely difficult threshold to meet, especially for grassroots citizen initiative campaigns. The bill passed the Senate on a party line vote but failed in the House.

HVA opposed this measure.

SCR1002 passed the Senate 16-13-1 and was held in the House, so the bill died.

Superstar Legislators

HVA wishes to thank those special (we call them) "Superstar Legislators", who expended efforts to protect animals and our public initiative process and were present for most or all key bill votes.

Senator Kavanagh is a strong, committed advocate for animals, who sponsored six animal protection bills this session, including one that obtained over half a million dollars to fund crucial spay neuter statewide. As of 2023, Kavanagh has passed 15 animal protection bills since 2013.

Representative Amish Shah again sponsored bills to ban inhumane declawing of cats and to repeal preemptions on local bans on pet stores selling puppy mill dogs. He also expended significant efforts to stop SB1251, which would have weakened cruelty protection for large numbers of animals.

Kavanagh, a Republican, and Shah, a Democrat, have worked together to pass pro-animal legislation, demonstrating that protecting animals transcends partisan viewpoints and the political spectrum.

The following legislators voted against measures damaging to animals and citizen initiatives and voted for animal protection bills and were present for most or all votes. Many also spoke out against damaging bills and defended beneficial measures in committee and on the floor:

Senators Lela Alston, Eva Diaz, Mitzi Epstein, Brian Fernandez, Theresa Hatathlie, Christine Marsh, and Priya Sundareshan



Senator John Kavanagh

Representatives Lorena Austin, Seth Blattman, Flavio Bravo, Andres Cano, Lupe Contreras, Patricia Contreras, Consuelo Hernandez, Lydia Hernandez, Melody Hernandez, Jennifer Longdon, Christopher Mathis, Analise Ortiz, Jennifer Pawlik, Mae Peshlakai, Marcelino Quinonez, Athena Salman, Keith Seaman, Judy Schwiebert, Stephanie Stahl Hamilton, Leezah Elsa Sun, Laura Terech, Stacey Travers, Myron Tsosie, and Betty Villegas

Legislators who helped on specific animal-related measures

HVA greatly appreciates the efforts of the following legislators who sponsored animal protection measures.



Representative Amish Shah

As stated, Senator John Kavanagh was the primary sponsor of several animal protection bills, three of which were passed by the Legislature and signed into law. While Kavanagh's record on protecting citizen initiatives is disappointing, he is a powerful, effective longtime champion in fighting animal cruelty. He is accessible and has a strong record of successfully working across the aisle to help animals.

Representative Amish Shah was instrumental in his efforts to coordinate opposition to the WAPA bill (SB1251). He again sponsored bills that would have repealed the law prohibiting local ordinances that ban sales of puppy mill dogs, and legislation to outlaw the practice of declawing cats. Representatives Nancy Gutierrez and Mariana Sandoval also expended extra efforts to stop SB1251.

Senator T.J. Shope sponsored the new law that allows veterinarians to use telemedicine to treat animals. The measure was supported by Arizona Humane Society and Humane Society of Southern Arizona.

Advocates

Special thanks to HVA board member and lobbyist Martha German for her outstanding efforts throughout the current and past legislative sessions.

HVA thanks Sonia Hernandez, Project Manager for Fix.Adopt.Save for her crucial support to pass SB1133, which provides funding for spay neuter statewide. Also thanks to Stephanie Nichols-Young with ADLA, Lauren Bouton, and the following animal care directors: Arleen Garcia with Nancy J. Brua Animal Care Center, Lisa Shafer with the Town of Marana, Audra Michael with Pinal County Animal Care and Control, and Annette Lagunas with Humane Society of Yuma.

HVA thanks its board and team members: Martha German, Stephanie Nichols-Young, Scott Bonsall-Cargill, Tom Krepitch, Michelle Lukasiewicz, and Heather Moos.

HVA greatly appreciates the many advocates across Arizona whose efforts opposing SB1251 helped to achieve the bill veto. Thanks to attorney Joyce Tischler, Dena Jones with Animal Welfare Institute, Elizabeth Oreck and Ledy VanKavage with Best Friends Animal Society, Jennifer Brumbaugh with Healing Hearts Animal Rescue and Refuge, Lain Kahlstrom, Nancy Young Wright, Don Scott, Deborah Wilson, MD, Sandy Bahr, AZ Sierra Club Director, Stephanie Nichols-Young, Stacy Pearson, and the hundreds of concerned citizens who signed the petition from HVA and ADLA asking the governor to veto SB1251. There are others who helped but need to remain anonymous. Special thanks to Governor Hobbs for vetoing this measure, which would have negatively impacted large numbers of Arizona animals.

Also thanks to Wayne Pacelle and Marty Irby with Animal Wellness Action, Law Enforcement Specialist Eric Sakach, and Tina Meredith for their help on the cockfighting bill.

Thanks to Kelsea Patton and Steve Hansen, DVM, ED of Arizona Humane Society and former Senator Steve Farley, ED of Humane Society of Southern Arizona, and their lobbyist Liz Goodman for their efforts to pass the new veterinary telemedicine law (SB1053).



Photo of Rescued Puppies by Karen Anderson

HVA thanks Gabe Wigtil, AZ Director of the Humane Society of the United States, for his efforts on legislation and to defend the cage-free egg ruling. Last year, the Arizona Governor's Regulatory Review Council (GRRC) approved rules requiring that eggs produced and sold in Arizona must come from hens free from cage confinement by 2025. However, in December 2022, the Pacific Legal Foundation petitioned GRRC to repeal the final rule. Thanks to the efforts of Gabe, HSUS, and other groups, GRRC voted to keep the rule to protect egg-laying hens in place.

We appreciate the always-valuable help from Sylvia Arena and Yvonne Anderson-Betts. And as always, HVA appreciates the tireless efforts of Sierra Club Arizona Director Sandy Bahr to protect our state's wildlife, habitat, and citizen initiative rights.

Finally, thanks to Stephanie Nichols-Young, Tom Krepitch, Martha German, and Heather Moos for their valuable input on this report.

For more information on legislation visit the HVA [website](#).

Legislative Scorecard

Voting records are provided on key bills affecting animals, including citizen initiative measures. There are no actual points or grades assigned.

Animal Bills

A checkmark ✓ indicates a vote in favor of animal protection, while an "x" represents a vote that negatively impacts animals. Votes on the most important bills that HVA supported or opposed are in **bold type**.

Voting/Initiative Bills

A checkmark ✓ indicates a vote that supports citizen initiative rights, while an "x" represents a vote that negatively affects the initiative process and in turn voters' ability to protect animals.

All Bills

An asterisk * indicates that the legislator's vote was for the purpose of reconsideration. After a bill vote takes place, a legislator who voted with the prevailing side may move to reconsider it. This tactic is a final attempt to save a bill that failed the House or Senate but can also be used to kill a bill that passed. The asterisk will follow symbols based on whether HVA supports or opposes the bill: * or x*

NV indicates that the legislator did not vote on a bill. This could be because that legislator was absent, or that they refrained from voting to affect the outcome of the bill vote.

A blank column under a bill indicates that the legislator did not have the opportunity to vote on that measure. This applies to legislators who replaced another one who left office during the session. In that case the new legislator is included in the scorecard but will have a blank column for bills voted on prior to the replacement.

Bill voting records represent one public aspect of the legislative process. However, many factors that affect measures are not subject to public scrutiny and are sometimes beyond the scope of this legislative report. The efforts of lawmakers, lobbyists, and others to influence legislation largely take place within the "hidden" political process. That is why some additional actions by lawmakers are also taken into consideration, such as sponsoring bills or influencing the passage or defeat of animal-related measures.

Those actions are represented in the OTHER column by positive icon 😊 or negative icon ☹️. In the COMMENTS column, PS means that the legislator was the primary sponsor of the bill. Cosponsors are not included in the scorecard. Please click on the bill number in the main legislative report for all information including status, primary and co-sponsors, amendments, committee and floor votes, and videos. Bill positions registered by organizations and individuals are listed under RTS Bill Positions.

Although animal protection and initiative bills provide a gauge for reviewing lawmakers, other bills that impact animals are those that affect wildlife habitat in Arizona. For legislative information on conservation measures, including voting records and scorecards visit the Arizona Sierra Club's [legislative](#) page.

For more information on this legislative report please email info@humanevotersaz.org

ARIZONA STATE SENATE 2023 SCORECARD

Animal Bills

Initiative Bills

NAME	LD	PTY	SB 1251	SB 1133	SB 1067	SB 1053	SCR 1015	OTHER	COMMENTS
Ken Bennett	1	R	✘	✓	✓	✓	✘		
Steve Kaiser	2	R	✘	✘	✓	✓	✘		
John Kavanagh	3	R	✘	✓	✓	✓	✘	😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊	PS SB1133, SB1067, & other pro-animal bills
Christine Marsh	4	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Lela Alston	5	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Theresa Hatathlie	6	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Wendy Rogers	7	R	✘	✓	✘	✓	✘		
Juan Mendez	8	D	✓	✘	✓	✓	✓	😊	PS SB1364 and SB1357 to ban pesticides
Eva Burch	9	D	✘	✓	✓	✓	✓		
David C. Farnsworth	10	R	✘	✘	✘	✓	✘		
Catherine Miranda	11	D	✘	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Denise "Mitzi" Epstein	12	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
J.D. Mesnard	13	R	✘	✓	✘	✓	✘		
Warren Petersen	14	R	✘	✘	✓	✓	✘		
Jake Hoffman	15	R	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	😞	Voted against animals on every bill in this report
Thomas "T.J." Shope	16	R	✘	✓	✓	✓	✘	😊	PS SB1053
Justine Wadsack	17	R	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘		
Priya Sundareshan	18	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
David Gowan	19	R	✘	✓	✓	✓	✘	😞	PS SB1308 (aerial fireworks)
Sally Ann Gonzales	20	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Rosanna Gabaldón	21	D	✓	NV	NV	✓	NV		
Eva Diaz	22	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Brian Fernandez	23	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Anna Hernandez	24	D	✓	✘	✓	✓	✓		
Sine Kerr	25	R	✘	✓	✓	✓	✘		
Flavio Bravo	26	D				✓			Moved from House to fill Sen Teran's seat
Raquel Terán	26	D	✓	✘	✓	V	✓		Resigned 4/13/23
Anthony Kern	27	R	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	😞	PS SCR1002 (anti-initiative)
Frank Carroll	28	R	✘	✘	✓	✓	✘		
Janae Shamp	29	R	✘	✘	✓	✓	✘	😞	PS SB1251 to weaken animal cruelty protection
Sonny Borrelli	30	R	✘	✓	✓	✓	✘	😊	PS bill to allow certified rabies vaccinators

Animal Bills

SB1251: weakens protection for animals
 SB1133: allocates funding for spay/neuter of animals statewide
 SB1067: creates committee to study animal shelter concerns
 SB1053: allows veterinarians to use telemedicine to treat patients

Initiative Bills

SCR1015: requires initiatives to submit a proportionate no. of signatures from all 30 legislative districts

Vote Symbols

Vote supporting animal protection or initiative rights ✓
 Vote opposing animal protection or initiative rights ✘
 Vote changed for purpose of reconsideration of bill ✓* or ✘*
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ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 2023 SCORECARD (Page 1 of 2)

Animal Bills

Initiative Bills

NAME	LD	PTY	SB 1251	SB 1067	SB 1053	SCR 1015	OTHER	COMMENTS
Selina Bliss	1	R	✘	✓	✓	✘		
Quang H Nguyen	1	R	✘	✓	✓	✘		
Judy Schwiebert	2	D	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Justin Wilmeth	2	R	✘	✘	✓	✘		
Joseph Chaplik	3	R	✘	✘	✓	✘		
Alexander Kolodin	3	R	✘	✘	✓	✘		
Laura Terech	4	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	☺	Expended extra efforts to stop SB1251
Matt Gress	4	R	✘	✓	✓	✘		
Jennifer L Longdon	5	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	☺	PS HB2184 to include animal cruelty in severe threat orders of protection
Amish Shah	5	D	✓	NV	NV	✓	☺☺☺☺	PS HB2335, HB2340, HB2741, & expended efforts to stop SB1251
Mae Peshlakai	6	D	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Myron Tsosie	6	D	✓	✓	✓	✓		
David L Cook	7	R	✘	✘	✓	✘		
David Marshall, Sr.	7	R	✘	✘	✓	✘		
Melody Hernandez	8	D	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Athena Salman	8	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	☺☺	PS HB2117 & HB2124 initiative protection (not heard in committee)
Lorena Austin	9	D	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Seth Blattman	9	D	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Justin Heap	10	R	✘	✘	✓	✘		
Barbara Parker	10	R	✘	✘	✓	✘		
Oscar De Los Santos	11	D	NV	✓	✓	✓		
Marcelino Quiñonez	11	D	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Patricia Contreras	12	D	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Stacey Travers	12	D	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Jennifer Pawlik	13	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	☺	PS HB2152 initiative protection bill (not heard in committee)
Liz Harris	13	R	✘	V	V	✘		
Julie Willoughby	13	R	✘	✘	✓	✘		
Travis Grantham	14	R	✘	✘	✓	✘		
Laurin Hendrix	14	R	✘	✘	✓	✘		
Neal Carter	15	R	✘	✘	✘	✘		
Jacqueline Parker	15	R	✘	✘	✓	✘		
Keith Seaman	16	D	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Teresa Martinez	16	R	✘	✓	✓	✘		
Rachel Jones	17	R	✘	✘	✓	✘		

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 2023 SCORECARD (Page 2 of 2)

Animal Bills

Initiative Bills

NAME	LD	PTY	SB 1251	SB 1067	SB 1053	SCR 1015	OTHER	COMMENTS
Cory McGarr	17	R	*	x	✓	x		
Nancy Gutierrez	18	D	✓	x	✓	✓	☹️	Expended extra efforts to stop SB1251
Christopher Mathis	18	D	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Lupe Diaz	19	R	*	x	✓	x		
Gail Griffin	19	R	*	x	✓	x		
Andrés Cano	20	D	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Alma Hernandez	20	D	✓	x	✓	✓	☹️	
Betty J Villegas	20	D	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Consuelo Hernandez	21	D	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Stephanie Stahl Hamilton	21	D	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Lupe Contreras	22	D	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Leezah Elsa Sun	22	D	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Mariana Sandoval	23	D	✓	x	✓	✓	☹️	Expended extra efforts to stop SB1251
Michele Peña	23	R	*	x	✓	x		
Lydia Hernandez	24	D	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Analise Ortiz	24	D	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Michael Carbone	25	R	*	✓	✓	x		
Timothy M Dunn	25	R	*	✓	✓	x		
Cesar Aguilar	26	D	NV	✓	✓	✓		
Flavio Bravo	26	D	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Quantá Crews	26	D						
Kevin Payne	27	R	*	x	✓	x		
Ben Toma	27	R	*	x	✓	x		
David Livingston	28	R	*	✓	✓	x		
Beverly Pingerelli	28	R	*	x	✓	x		
Steve Montenegro	29	R	*	x	✓	x		
Austin Smith	29	R	*	x	✓	x		
Leo Biasiucci	30	R	*	✓	✓	x		
John Gillette	30	R	*	x	✓	x		

Animal Bills

SB1251: weakens protection for animals
 SB1067: creates study committee to address animal shelter concerns
 SB1053: allows veterinarians to use telemedicine to treat patients

Initiative Bills

SCR1015: requires initiatives to submit a proportionate no. of signatures from all 30 legislative districts

Vote Symbols

Vote supporting animal protection or initiative rights ✓
 Vote opposing animal protection or initiative rights *
 Vote changed for purpose of reconsideration of bill ✓* or x*
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