

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

3 HOUSE BILL 2593

By: Humphrey

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6 AS INTRODUCED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

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