

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2011 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Criminal Justice

SB 344 — Animal Cruelty

by Senator Rich

The bill creates s. 828.126, F.S.

The bill prohibits, as a first-degree misdemeanor, knowingly engaging in sexual conduct or contact with an animal. Sexual conduct and sexual contact are defined in the bill. It also prohibits, with the same penalty, knowingly:

- aiding or abetting another in committing the conduct or contact;
- permitting the acts to be conducted on one's premises; or
- organizing, promoting, participating as an observer in, or performing services to facilitate the acts for commercial or recreational purposes.

Accepted animal husbandry practices, conformation judging practices, and accepted veterinary medical practices are specifically exempted from prosecution under the bill.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect October 1, 2011.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 115-0