

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-925

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE IMPORT, SALE AND POSSESSION OF AFRICAN ELEPHANTS, LIONS, LEOPARDS, BLACK RHINOCEROS, WHITE RHINOCEROS AND GIRAFFES.

As Amended by Senate "B" (LCO 8888), House "A" (LCO 9812)

House Calendar No.: 532

Senate Calendar No.: 164

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## ***OFA Fiscal Note***

### ***State Impact:***

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 22 \$</b>	<b>FY 23 \$</b>
Correction, Dept.; Judicial Dept. (Probation)	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

***Municipal Impact:*** None

### ***Explanation***

The bill bans importing, possessing, selling, offering for sale, or transporting in Connecticut a specimen of any of six types of African animals unless covered by the bill's exemptions. It applies to certain elephants, lions, leopards, giraffes, and two rhinoceros species.

The bill establishes a graduated penalty structure for violations, ranging from no penalty for someone who, unaware and in good faith, violates the ban, to a class D felony for someone with at least two prior violations subject to penalty. Under the bill, a specimen and any other property or item used in connection with a violation must be seized and held.

Violations of this provision may result in a potential cost for incarceration or probation and a potential revenue gain from penalties

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assessed. On average, the marginal cost to the state for incarcerating an offender for the year is \$2,200 while the average marginal cost for supervision in the community is less than \$700 each year.

Senate "B" replaces the underlying bill's graduated penalty structure making a first offense a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$2,000, up to a year in prison, or both, and a subsequent offense a class D felony; adds exemptions for lawfully possessing a specimen under federal law or permit, taxidermy services, and tax exempt institutions for research purposes; and allows museums and institutions to transfer specimens to certain tax-exempt entities.

House "A" reinstates the graduated penalty structure replaced by Senate Amendment "B" resulting in the fiscal impact described above.