

First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
9/6/24

BILL 3

LLS NO. 25-0204.01 Jery Payne x2157

INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL

American Indian Affairs Interim Study Committee

BILL TOPIC: Protect Wild Bison

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CLASSIFICATION OF BISON AS WILDLIFE UNLESS**
102 **CLASSIFIED AS LIVESTOCK.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)

American Indian Affairs Interim Study Committee. The bill classifies bison as big game wildlife unless the bison is livestock. Classifying bison as wildlife means that hunting or taking one is illegal unless authorized by rule of the parks and wildlife commission.

*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing law.*

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 33-1-102, **amend** (2),
3 (29), and (51); and **add** (2.6) as follows:

4 **33-1-102. Definitions - rules.** As used in this title 33, unless the
5 context otherwise requires:

6 (2) "Big game" means elk, white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose,
7 rocky mountain bighorn sheep, desert bighorn sheep, rocky mountain
8 goat, pronghorn antelope, black bear, mountain lion, BISON THAT ARE
9 WILDLIFE, and all species of large mammals that may be introduced or
10 transplanted into this state for hunting or are classified as big game by the
11 commission.

12 (2.6) "BISON" MEANS THE UNGULATE CLASSIFIED AS THE SPECIES
13 BOS BISON OR BISON BISON, KNOWN AS THE AMERICAN BISON.

14 (29) "Nongame wildlife" means all native species and subspecies
15 of wildlife ~~which~~ THAT are not classified as game wildlife by THIS TITLE
16 33 OR rule ~~or regulation~~ of the commission.

17 (51) (a) "Wildlife" means ~~wild~~ vertebrates, mollusks, and
18 crustaceans, whether THE ANIMAL IS alive or dead, ~~including~~ IF THE
19 ANIMAL PRESENTLY OR HISTORICALLY EXISTS AS A SPECIES IN A NATURAL
20 WILD STATE IN ITS PLACE OF ORIGIN.

21 (b) "WILDLIFE" INCLUDES:

22 (I) BISON; OR

23 (II) Any part, product, egg, or offspring ~~thereof, that exist as a~~
24 ~~species in a natural wild state in their place of origin, presently or~~
25 ~~historically, except~~ OF WILDLIFE.

26 (c) "WILDLIFE" DOES NOT INCLUDE:

27 (I) PRIVATELY OWNED CATTLE, INCLUDING PRIVATELY OWNED

1 BISON; OR

2 (II) Those species determined to be domestic animals by rule ~~or~~
3 ~~regulation~~ by the commission and the state agricultural commission, BY
4 STATUTE, OR BY COURT DECISION.

5 (d) ~~Such~~ A determination ~~within this statute shall~~ MADE UNDER
6 SUBSECTION (51)(c)(II) OF THIS SECTION DOES not affect other statutes,
7 RULES, or court decisions determining injury to persons or damage to
8 property ~~which~~ THAT depend on the classification of animals by ~~such~~ THE
9 OTHER statute, RULE, or court decision as LIVESTOCK OR wild or domestic
10 animals.

11 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
12 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
13 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
14 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
15 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
16 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
17 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
18 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
19 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.