



## SCIL Social Compassion in Legislation

### AB 1260 – Ban on Sale of Exotic Animal Parts

#### Summary

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AB 1260 would ban the importation with intent to sell and sale of monitor lizard, teju lizard, ring lizard, Nile lizard, skink lizard, iguana, caiman, and hippo in California.

#### Background

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Thousands of lizards, caiman, and other species of exotic animals are killed for their skins each year. These animals suffer greatly for the sake of fashion and vanity, even while alternatives exist. They experience a lifetime of stress related to intensive confinement, crowding, harsh and unnatural surroundings such as concrete, a lack of fresh water, irregular temperatures, and rampant disease. Often these animals are skinned while alive, sometimes taking hours to die because of their slow metabolisms. They are kept their entire short lives in dirty, shallow pools of water without basic veterinary care.

Captive, selective breeding gives rise to mutant features associated with genetic problems and defects. Visual traits – such as color or pattern, including albinism – result from recessive genes and represent a genetic disorder. Two animals with the same disorder rarely mate in nature, but in captivity, it is done intentionally. These mutations and defects are usually linked to health problems and illnesses, and the animals who have them would not last long in the wild. Captive inbreeding replicates genetic defects, reduces genetic diversity, expresses recessive traits, results in mutations and permanent DNA changes, affects physiology and anatomy, and creates mutant animals rarely found in nature.

There is a broad array of luxurious cruelty-free materials available for use, including embossed imitation leather that looks and feels like exotic skin, without the cruelty. Several large retailers have already led the charge in banning these

skins, including Chanel, Ann Taylor, H&M, Adidas, and Victoria's Secret, to name a few.

#### This Bill

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There is simply no justification for using the skin of exotic animals. This bill would take an important next step in reducing the needless pain and suffering of animals by banning the importation with intent to sell and the sale of these species within California.

#### Support

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Social Compassion in Legislation (Sponsor)

#### Opposition

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No opposition received

#### Staff Contact

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