

**From:** [Arellano, Joey](#)  
**To:** [Press](#)  
**Subject:** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Representative Grieco Files Animal Abuse Bill  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 2:53:55 PM

---

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 29, 2021

### **CONTACT**

Gabriela Navarro  
Office of Representative Michael Grieco  
850.717.5113  
[michael.Grieco@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:michael.Grieco@myfloridahouse.gov)  
[gabriela.Navarro@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:gabriela.Navarro@myfloridahouse.gov)

## **Representative Michael Grieco Files Animal Abuse Bill**

**MIAMI – Representative Michael Grieco (D-Miami)** filed [HB 435](#) today. **Representative Grieco**, who sits in his third year as Ranking Minority Member of the House Subcommittee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety and is both a criminal defense attorney and former state prosecutor, has just filed a bill expanding definitions and increasing penalties for animal fighting and abuse.

**Representative Grieco** states, “Anyone who commits bestiality is just evil and the fact that it is only a misdemeanor in Florida to commit depraved acts on animals is in need of correction. I am usually the last person in Tallahassee to call for increasing any criminal penalties, but after the Feds had to take lead against that veterinarian in Aventura earlier this year I wanted to make sure state statute grew some teeth.”

**HB 435** not only increases penalties for sexual contact with animals but it expands definitions and adds a clause to the current animal fighting prohibitions.

###