



# SeaWorld/Busch Gardens Wildlife Regulations

## 9-12 Classroom Activities

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## Write to Your State Senator

### OBJECTIVE

The student will demonstrate basic Internet competency skills. The student will research current legislation relating to endangered species or the environment and construct an argument either for or against the proposed legislation. The student will contact a state senator (via email) for their position on a certain proposed legislation.

### ACTION

1. Explain to students the importance of being informed and involved in government issues such as proposed legislation and national concerns. The students will have an opportunity to research current legislation concerning endangered species or environmental issues with this project.
2. Allow computer time for students to access the Internet. Instruct students to begin their research by logging on to <http://thomas.loc.gov/bss/d107query.html>
3. Next, the students should type in a key word such as “endangered species” or “environment” under the Word/Phrase section and enter Search. The next screen should yield the search results.
4. Instruct students to select a Bill that appeals to them (positively or negatively) and click on the highlighted link to access more information about the Bill.
5. Next, click on the highlighted “All Bill Summary and Status Info” link. This should yield a more descriptive outline for the Bill.
6. Instruct students to complete the *Bill Outline Funsheet* based on their research of the proposed legislation. This outline will serve as the basis for an oral presentation based upon their research.
7. Next, the students will email their state senator to get their point of view on the proposed legislation they researched. Students can determine their state senator’s email address by logging on to [http://www.senate.gov/senators/senator\\_by\\_state.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/senators/senator_by_state.cfm)
8. Students should email a respectful letter that clearly states their name, the Bill number, a brief description of the Bill, a question about their stance on the Bill, and way for the senator or staff to reply.
10. Students can keep their classmates informed as replies come in.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Do you know what legislation your state senator supports? Different agencies and organizations submit proposals every year. Congress must decide whether these proposals are valid. The Federal Register keeps track of the proposed bills and updates them; for a list of current legislation regarding native endangered species, log on to <http://endangered.fws.gov/frpubs/otherfed.htm>

In this exercise, students will read current legislation concerning such species and then decide for themselves if they believe the current legislation piece to be a valid solution or act.

## MATERIALS

### For each student:

- Internet Access
- *Bill Outline Funsheet*



An oiled murre sits before cleaning after being caught in the 1989 Alaska oil spill.

# Bill Outline Funsheet

Legislative Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Which chamber of congress was this bill introduced (hint: Look at the legislative number): \_\_\_\_\_

Who is the sponsor(s) of the bill? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the date the bill was introduced? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the title of the bill? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the bill in detail. \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe any amendments to the bill if there are any. \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the latest major action on the bill. \_\_\_\_\_

Has the bill been reviewed by both chambers of Congress. \_\_\_\_\_

List seven detailed reasons why this bill appeals to you (positively or negatively).

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