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Bill to ban primates pulled, sent to interim study

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Updated: 3/31 8:45 pm Published: 3/31 8:45 pm LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — The sponsor of a bill that would ban new ownership of primates in Arkansas has pulled the bill from consideration and sent it for further study.

Sen. Percy Malone of Arkadelphia decided Thursday evening to send the bill to the Interim Study Committee so it could be perhaps taken up in the next regular session.

Malone said he was concerned that unregulated monkeys could spread diseases that are fatal to humans. He also said a primate dosed with a deadly communicable disease could be set loose by terrorists.

But primate owners argued that the restrictions would be too harsh, some saying that a monkey whose cage mate died couldn't get a new one. The question was also raised about monkeys that are service animals and whether they could be replaced.

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What? I'm glad to hear the government is taking care of these highly important issues for us. This is of upmost importance. This makes Arkansas sound stupid! Why would you report on this? Terroristic sick monkeys, really? Who would have thought. How do the other senators keep from laughing when Bills like this is brought up?

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