



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 466

January Session, 2009

Substitute Senate Bill No. 262

Senate, April 6, 2009

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. MEYER of the 12th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT PERMITTING THE IMPORTATION OF REINDEER.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2009*) Any person may import
2 one or more reindeer into the state during the period commencing on
3 Thanksgiving Day of each year and ending on the immediately
4 following New Year's Day, provided any reindeer so imported is
5 subsequently exported from the state no later than a week following
6 the end of such period.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	New section
-----------	------------------------	-------------

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

Section 1 was rewritten to clarify the period of time each year during which the provision applies.

ENV Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

There is no fiscal impact for the importation of reindeer between certain dates.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 262*****AN ACT PERMITTING THE IMPORTATION OF REINDEER.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill allows anyone to annually import one or more reindeer into the state between Thanksgiving Day and the following New Year's Day, provided the reindeer is exported from the state by January 8 of each year. Current agency regulations prohibit the importation of reindeers (see BACKGROUND).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2009

BACKGROUND***Reindeer Ban***

Connecticut is one of a number of states that have banned the importation of captive members of the *Cervidae* family, including reindeer, because of the threat of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) (Conn. Agency Regs. § 22-278-6). State regulations also prohibit the importation of deer, moose, and elk carcasses or parts from states or provinces where CWD has been confirmed (Conn. Agency Regs. § 26-55-4).

Reindeer and Chronic Wasting Disease

CWD is a rare, fatal disease found in members of the deer family (*Cervidae*), which includes white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, moose, and reindeer. It is one of a group of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE's), which also include bovine spongiform encephalopathy (Mad Cow disease) in cattle, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in people.

Once established in a deer population, control or eradication of CWD is extremely difficult. According to some wildlife experts CWD

has the potential to reduce deer populations in the long-term.

Although there has been no reported case of CWD in reindeer, researchers believe they would be susceptible to the disease because of their genetic similarity to deer that contract it.

Some states allow the importation of reindeer that are certified disease free. For example, New York monitors CWD-susceptible deer herds for evidence of CWD (and other diseases) for five years, during which time they cannot be shipped off-site. If there is no instance of CWD in that time, the deer may be shipped elsewhere. Because New York does not consider reindeer CWD-susceptible, reindeer herds are not required to participate in this herd certification program, but may do so voluntarily.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 27 Nay 3 (03/20/2009)