



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

Raised Bill No. 5315

LCO No. 1174



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PREVENTION OF THE HABITUATION OF POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMALS, THE POSTING OF INFORMATIONAL NOTICES CONCERNING ENCOUNTERS WITH WILDLIFE AND THE STATUS OF SNAPPING TURTLES UNDER STATE LAW.

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

1 Section 1. Section 26-25a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may
4 adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54
5 prohibiting or restricting the feeding of wildlife on state-owned
6 property and prohibiting or restricting the feeding of potentially
7 dangerous animals, as listed in section 26-40a, on property that is not
8 owned by the state. Such regulations shall include, but not be limited
9 to, procedures for designating areas subject to such prohibitions or
10 restrictions. Any such designation shall be effective after public notice
11 and a public comment period.

12 (b) Any conservation officer appointed pursuant to section 26-5 and

13 any other officer authorized to serve criminal process may enforce any
14 regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Any
15 violation of such regulations shall be an infraction.

16 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Energy
17 and Environmental Protection shall cause notices to be posted in state
18 parks and forests that provide patrons of such facilities with
19 instructional information on behaviors to undertake and avoid upon
20 encountering wildlife. Such notices shall detail specific behaviors to
21 undertake and avoid upon encountering one or more bears in such
22 facilities.

23 Sec. 3. Section 26-78 of the general statutes is repealed and the
24 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

25 No person shall buy, sell or exchange, or have in possession with
26 intent to sell or exchange, any wild or game bird, wild quadruped,
27 reptile or amphibian, alive or dead, or parts thereof, including
28 plumage of any such bird, except as provided in this chapter, provided
29 any game bird, wild quadruped, reptile or amphibian, alive or dead, or
30 parts thereof, not including plumage of any such bird, legally taken
31 and legally transported into this state from any other state or country
32 which does not prohibit the sale or exportation of such bird, wild
33 quadruped, reptile or amphibian, may be bought or sold in this state at
34 any time of the year under such regulations as may be made by the
35 commissioner. The commissioner may make regulations governing the
36 importation, transportation, purchase, sale or exchange of wild or
37 game bird plumage. Any wild or game bird, wild quadruped, reptile
38 or amphibian, alive or dead, or parts thereof, including plumage of
39 such birds, possessed contrary to any of the provisions of this section
40 or any regulation made by the commissioner, shall be seized by any
41 representative of the department; and the commissioner or his
42 authorized agent shall make disposition of the same by sale or
43 destruction or by gift to any educational institution, museum,
44 zoological park or any other suitable place where in the opinion of the

45 commissioner an educational purpose will be served. The provisions of
 46 this section shall not prohibit the possession, sale or exchange of heads,
 47 hides or pelts of legally acquired deer and fur-bearing animals or the
 48 possession and mounting of legally acquired game birds, wild
 49 quadrupeds, reptiles and amphibians. Each wild or game bird, wild
 50 quadruped, reptile or amphibian, or part thereof, or each lot or
 51 package of wild or game bird plumage, possessed contrary to any
 52 provision of this section or any regulation issued by the commissioner,
 53 shall constitute a separate offense. Said commissioner may make
 54 regulations authorizing the importation, exportation, possession, sale
 55 and exchange of legally acquired, protected and unprotected species of
 56 live wild birds, live wild quadrupeds, reptiles and amphibians under
 57 such conditions as said commissioner shall determine. Said
 58 commissioner may order any such bird, quadruped, reptile or
 59 amphibian impounded for such period, at such place and in such
 60 manner as is determined by the commissioner, to allow examination to
 61 determine if such bird, quadruped, reptile or amphibian is diseased or
 62 infected with parasites, and the commissioner is authorized to order
 63 the destruction of such bird, quadruped, reptile or amphibian when in
 64 his opinion such action would be advisable in the public interest. Any
 65 person who violates any provision of this section or any regulation or
 66 order issued by the commissioner under this section shall be guilty of a
 67 class C misdemeanor. [The provisions of this section shall not apply to
 68 snapping turtles.]

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	26-25a
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	26-78

Statement of Purpose:

To prevent the habituation of potentially dangerous animals, including, but not limited to, bears and to require the posting of notices in state parks and forests concerning actions people should

take when they encounter a bear or other wildlife and to extend prohibitions concerning the sale or exchange of certain wild animals to snapping turtles.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]