



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5315

February Session, 2016



AN ACT CONCERNING THE PREVENTION OF THE HABITUATION OF POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMALS 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 Section 26-25a of the general statutes is repealed and the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. Section 26-78 of the general statutes is repealed and the
17 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

18 No person shall buy, sell or exchange, or have in possession with
19 intent to sell or exchange, any wild or game bird, wild quadruped,
20 reptile or amphibian, alive or dead, or parts thereof, including
21 plumage of any such bird, except as provided in this chapter, provided
22 any game bird, wild quadruped, reptile or amphibian, alive or dead, or
23 parts thereof, not including plumage of any such bird, legally taken
24 and legally transported into this state from any other state or country
25 which does not prohibit the sale or exportation of such bird, wild
26 quadruped, reptile or amphibian, may be bought or sold in this state at
27 any time of the year under such regulations as may be made by the
28 commissioner. The commissioner may make regulations governing the
29 importation, transportation, purchase, sale or exchange of wild or
30 game bird plumage. Any wild or game bird, wild quadruped, reptile
31 or amphibian, alive or dead, or parts thereof, including plumage of
32 such birds, possessed contrary to any of the provisions of this section
33 or any regulation made by the commissioner, shall be seized by any
34 representative of the department; and the commissioner or his
35 authorized agent shall make disposition of the same by sale or
36 destruction or by gift to any educational institution, museum,
37 zoological park or any other suitable place where in the opinion of the
38 commissioner an educational purpose will be served. The provisions of
39 this section shall not prohibit the possession, sale or exchange of heads,
40 hides or pelts of legally acquired deer and fur-bearing animals or the
41 possession and mounting of legally acquired game birds, wild
42 quadrupeds, reptiles and amphibians. Each wild or game bird, wild
43 quadruped, reptile or amphibian, or part thereof, or each lot or
44 package of wild or game bird plumage, possessed contrary to any
45 provision of this section or any regulation issued by the commissioner,
46 shall constitute a separate offense. Said commissioner may make
47 regulations authorizing the importation, exportation, possession, sale
48 and exchange of legally acquired, protected and unprotected species of
49 live wild birds, live wild quadrupeds, reptiles and amphibians under
50 such conditions as said commissioner shall determine. Said
51 commissioner may order any such bird, quadruped, reptile or
52 amphibian impounded for such period, at such place and in such

53 manner as is determined by the commissioner, to allow examination to
54 determine if such bird, quadruped, reptile or amphibian is diseased or
55 infected with parasites, and the commissioner is authorized to order
56 the destruction of such bird, quadruped, reptile or amphibian when in
57 his opinion such action would be advisable in the public interest. Any
58 person who violates any provision of this section or any regulation or
59 order issued by the commissioner under this section shall be guilty of a
60 class C misdemeanor. [The provisions of this section shall not apply to
61 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>October 1, 2016</i>	26-78

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*