



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5354**

February Session, 2018



**AN ACT CONCERNING SNAPPING TURTLES AND RED-EARED SLIDER TURTLES.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 26-78 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2018*):

3 (a) No person shall buy, sell or exchange, or have in possession with  
4 intent to sell or exchange, any wild or game bird, wild quadruped,  
5 reptile or amphibian, alive or dead, or parts thereof, including  
6 plumage of any such bird, except as provided in this chapter, provided  
7 any game bird, wild quadruped, reptile or amphibian, alive or dead, or  
8 parts thereof, not including plumage of any such bird, legally taken  
9 and legally transported into this state from any other state or country  
10 which does not prohibit the sale or exportation of such bird, wild  
11 quadruped, reptile or amphibian, may be bought or sold in this state at  
12 any time of the year under such regulations as may be made by the  
13 commissioner. The commissioner may make regulations governing the  
14 importation, transportation, purchase, sale or exchange of wild or  
15 game bird plumage. Any wild or game bird, wild quadruped, reptile  
16 or amphibian, alive or dead, or parts thereof, including plumage of  
17 such birds, possessed contrary to any of the provisions of this section  
18 or any regulation made by the commissioner, shall be seized by any  
19 representative of the department; and the commissioner or his

20 authorized agent shall make disposition of the same by sale or  
21 destruction or by gift to any educational institution, museum,  
22 zoological park or any other suitable place where in the opinion of the  
23 commissioner an educational purpose will be served. The provisions of  
24 this section shall not prohibit the possession, sale or exchange of heads,  
25 hides or pelts of legally acquired deer and fur-bearing animals or the  
26 possession and mounting of legally acquired game birds, wild  
27 quadrupeds, reptiles and amphibians. Each wild or game bird, wild  
28 quadruped, reptile or amphibian, or part thereof, or each lot or  
29 package of wild or game bird plumage, possessed contrary to any  
30 provision of this section or any regulation issued by the commissioner,  
31 shall constitute a separate offense. Said commissioner may make  
32 regulations authorizing the importation, exportation, possession, sale  
33 and exchange of legally acquired, protected and unprotected species of  
34 live wild birds, live wild quadrupeds, reptiles and amphibians under  
35 such conditions as said commissioner shall determine. Said  
36 commissioner may order any such bird, quadruped, reptile or  
37 amphibian impounded for such period, at such place and in such  
38 manner as is determined by the commissioner, to allow examination to  
39 determine if such bird, quadruped, reptile or amphibian is diseased or  
40 infected with parasites, and the commissioner is authorized to order  
41 the destruction of such bird, quadruped, reptile or amphibian when in  
42 his opinion such action would be advisable in the public interest. Any  
43 person who violates any provision of this section or any regulation or  
44 order issued by the commissioner under this section shall be guilty of a  
45 class C misdemeanor. [The] Except as provided in subsection (b) of this  
46 section, the provisions of this section shall [not] also apply to red-eared  
47 slider turtles and snapping turtles.

48 (b) (1) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section and  
49 subdivision (2) of this subsection shall not be construed to prohibit the  
50 use of red-eared slider turtles for any educational or research-related  
51 purpose by any scientific or educational institution provided no such  
52 turtle shall be released upon the lands or into the waters of this state.

- 53     (2) No person shall import any red-eared slider turtle into this state.
- 54     (3) No person shall release any red-eared slider turtle upon the
- 55     lands or into the waters of this state.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	26-78
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**ENV**     *Joint Favorable Subst.*