
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 586

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONTROL OF NUISANCE WILDLIFE.

SUMMARY

This bill expands the circumstances under which the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner may issue permits for the taking (e.g., capturing, trapping, killing) of nuisance wildlife. As required under existing law, an affected landowner or lessee seeking such a permit must apply in writing to the commissioner.

Under current law, the commissioner may issue a permit for taking nuisance wildlife when it is shown to her satisfaction that wildlife is causing unreasonable damage to agricultural crops at night and control of the wildlife is not practicable during daylight hours. The bill instead allows her to issue such a permit when it is shown to her satisfaction that wildlife is causing unreasonable damage to agricultural crops, livestock, poultry, or bees, regardless of the time of day the damage occurs. Under the bill, the permit may allow the taking of such nuisance wildlife at any time of day or night as the commissioner deems necessary to control damage.

As under existing law, DEEP may issue a permit to any qualified person the landowner or lessee designates. That person is responsible for complying with the permit conditions. Under the bill, the permit must be limited to taking nuisance wildlife only on the land where the crops are grown or the livestock, poultry, or bees are cared for, raised, or fed. As under existing law, such a permit cannot authorize the taking of deer.

Additionally, the bill allows a permit holder to keep any wildlife taken pursuant to the permit.

By law, a person who violates the nuisance wildlife law or any permit condition is guilty of a class D misdemeanor, which is punishable by a fine of up to \$250, imprisonment of up to 30 days, or both. In addition, the commissioner must revoke any nuisance wildlife permits issued to the person or others with respect to the property. The permits must remain suspended for a period of time determined by the commissioner (CGS § 26-47(c)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17 Nay 11 (03/18/2019)