



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 7051

January Session, 2025



AN ACT CONCERNING THE BLACK BEAR POPULATION IN THE STATE.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of
2 Energy and Environmental Protection, in conjunction with the
3 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, shall
4 develop, and thereafter revise as necessary, a black bear management
5 plan to ensure public safety and the protection of property and maintain
6 a sustainable black bear population in the state. Such plan shall include,
7 but need not be limited to: (1) An assessment of the current black bear
8 population, and the desired future status of such population, in various
9 regions of the state, (2) recommendations for minimizing human and
10 black bear conflicts, (3) guidelines for public education initiatives
11 concerning management and conflict avoidance, (4) strategies for
12 nonlethal black bear deterrence and response, (5) an evaluation of
13 potential black bear population control measures, (6) protocols for the
14 public, the state and agencies, instrumentalities and political
15 subdivisions of the state to manage black bears that pose an imminent
16 threat to public safety or property, (7) recommendations for waste
17 management practices to reduce black bear attractants, and (8) strategies
18 for coordinating with municipalities, law enforcement officers and
19 interested parties to improve black bear safety measures.

20 (b) Not later than July 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Energy and
21 Environmental Protection shall submit the plan, in accordance with the
22 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
23 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
24 relating to public safety and the environment. If such plan is revised, the
25 commissioner shall submit such revised plan to said committees not
26 later than thirty days after the development of such revised plan.

27 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) If the Commissioner of Energy
28 and Environmental Protection determines that the black bear
29 population in the state poses a threat to public safety, the commissioner
30 may request the Governor to issue an executive order to authorize any
31 appropriate black bear population control measures.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

PS *Joint Favorable Subst.*