



General Assembly

## ***Substitute Bill No. 1523***

*January Session, 2025*



### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE TAKING OF WILDLIFE THAT DAMAGE CROPS OR BLACK BEAR THAT INJURE OR KILL LIVESTOCK.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (e) of section 26-47 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
3 *passage*):

4 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,  
5 the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may issue  
6 permits for the taking of wildlife that threatens, [or] causes damage to  
7 agricultural crops, livestock or apiaries [,] or that caused damage to  
8 crops during the preceding growing season, as verified by the  
9 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection if: (1) The owner  
10 or lessee of the subject property utilized reasonable nonlethal efforts to  
11 protect such [crops,] apiaries or livestock, including, but not limited to,  
12 electric fencing, animal guardians or fortified enclosed structures, and  
13 (2) an investigation by Department of Energy and Environmental  
14 Protection personnel determines that the taking of such wildlife is  
15 necessary to protect agricultural crops, apiaries or livestock from  
16 excessive damage and that reasonable nonlethal efforts to protect such  
17 [crops,] apiaries or livestock have not been or are not likely to be  
18 successful in preventing further damage. Any such permit issued  
19 pursuant to this subsection shall specify the means, methods and times

20 for which such take is allowed and shall only be issued by the  
21 commissioner to the: (A) Owner of the subject property on which such  
22 excessive damage occurred, (B) agent of such owner, or (C) lessee of  
23 such subject property, provided such lessee has the written permission  
24 of such owner to take wildlife. No application for a permit pursuant to  
25 this section shall require notarization. Any wildlife taken pursuant to  
26 this section shall be disposed of as directed by the department. The  
27 provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to authorize the  
28 taking of any federally protected species.

29 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 26-80a of the general statutes is  
30 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
31 *passage*):

32 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent any person  
33 from using deadly physical force to kill a bear if such person reasonably  
34 believes that a bear is: (1) Inflicting or is about to inflict great bodily  
35 harm to a human, (2) injuring or killing such person's pet or livestock  
36 that is otherwise controlled in accordance with any applicable provision  
37 of the general statutes or any regulation adopted pursuant to such a  
38 provision, or (3) entering a building occupied by persons.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	26-47(e)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	26-80a(c)

**ENV**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*