



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 8608



Offered by:

SEN. LOPES, 6th Dist.

SEN. HARDING, 30th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 1523

File No. 712

Cal. No. 381

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

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

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4 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*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

6 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
7 the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may issue
8 permits for the taking of wildlife that threatens, [or] causes damage to
9 agricultural crops, livestock or apiaries [,] or that caused damage to
10 crops during the preceding growing season, as verified by the
11 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection if: (1) The owner
12 or lessee of the subject property utilized reasonable nonlethal efforts to
13 protect such [crops,] apiaries or livestock, including, but not limited to,

14 electric fencing, animal guardians or fortified enclosed structures, and
15 (2) an investigation by Department of Energy and Environmental
16 Protection personnel determines that the taking of such wildlife is
17 necessary to protect agricultural crops, apiaries or livestock from
18 excessive damage and that reasonable nonlethal efforts to protect such
19 [crops,] apiaries or livestock have not been or are not likely to be
20 successful in preventing further damage. Any such permit issued
21 pursuant to this subsection shall specify the means, methods and times
22 for which such take is allowed and shall only be issued by the
23 commissioner to the: (A) Owner of the subject property on which such
24 excessive damage occurred, (B) agent of such owner, or (C) lessee of
25 such subject property, provided such lessee has the written permission
26 of such owner to take wildlife. No application for a permit pursuant to
27 this section shall require notarization. Any wildlife taken pursuant to
28 this section shall be disposed of as directed by the department. The
29 provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to authorize the
30 taking of any federally protected species.

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32 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*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

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

41 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Following an assessment
42 described in subsection (b) of this section, upon a finding by the
43 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Governor
44 that bear conflicts with humans, pets and livestock in the state have
45 reached a level that pose a threat to public safety, the Governor may
46 direct the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection to

47 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of
48 the general statutes, to permit a bear hunt in the state and establish the
49 parameters of such a bear hunt.

50 (b) In conducting an assessment for the purpose of making a finding
51 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the Commissioner of Energy
52 and Environmental Protection shall consider factors, including, but not
53 limited to, black bear entries into occupied buildings, black bear attacks
54 on persons and pets and livestock depredation by black bear."

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)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

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Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	26-80a(c)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section