



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5330

February Session, 2026



AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN WILDLIFE ACTION PLANS.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 26-107f of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2026*):

4 (b) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall
5 establish a conservation program for species not traditionally harvested,
6 which shall include, but not be limited to, provisions for the following:
7 [Resource] Facilitation of the implementation of the most recent
8 federally approved state of Connecticut wildlife action plan, resource
9 inventory, including conservation action tracker measures, habitat
10 conservation, monitoring of environmental and climate change impacts,
11 conservation of endangered and threatened species, wildlife recreation
12 management, wildlife conservation education, private landowner
13 assistance, urban wildlife conservation, problem animal management
14 and scientific research, planning, administration and development.
15 Such conservation program shall provide for a wildlife veterinarian to
16 assist in the oversight and implementation of such conservation
17 program.

18 Sec. 2. Section 26-107h of the general statutes is repealed and the
19 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

20 [On or before February first, annually, the Commissioner of Energy
21 and Environmental Protection shall submit to the joint standing
22 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
23 relating to the environment a report on the progress of the program
24 established under section 26-107f, the purposes for which any funds
25 allocated to said program were expended and the future of the
26 program.]

27 (a) There is established a working group within the legislature to
28 identify how the conservation program established in section 26-107f, as
29 amended by this act, should be funded and implemented.

30 (b) Not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section,
31 the cochairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General
32 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment, in
33 consultation with the ranking members of said committee, and the chief
34 of the Bureau of Natural Resources of the Department of Energy and
35 Environmental Protection shall jointly select two cochairpersons for
36 such working group. Not later than forty-five days after the effective
37 date of this section, the cochairpersons of such working group shall
38 select the membership of such working group, which shall include, but
39 not be limited to: (1) One representative of the Department of Energy
40 and Environmental Protection, the Department of Transportation and
41 the Office of Policy and Management, (2) two representatives of
42 conservation advocacy organizations that work on wildlife-related
43 issues, one of whom shall have fisheries aquatic expertise, (3) one
44 representative of a land conservation organization, (4) two members of
45 the faculty of a state college or university, as recommended by the chief
46 of the Bureau of Natural Resources of the Department of Energy and
47 Environmental Protection, (5) one representative from a council of
48 governments, (6) a representative of the water utilities, (7) a
49 representative of an organization that represents the marine trades in
50 the state, (8) a representative of the Connecticut Farm Bureau, or its
51 designee, and (9) a certified forester in this state.

52 (c) The cochairpersons of such working group shall convene such

53 working group not later than sixty days after the effective date of this
54 section. The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
55 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
56 environment shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.
57 Not later than January 15, 2027, the working group shall submit a report
58 on its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
59 legislative proposals, to the joint standing committee of the General
60 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment, in
61 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a. The working group
62 shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 15,
63 2027, whichever is later.

64 Sec. 3. Section 26-107i of the general statutes is repealed and the
65 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

66 The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may
67 establish a program for the sale of wildlife stamps, prints, posters,
68 calendars, publications or other items. Any revenue received from the
69 sale of such goods or materials and any funds donated to the state for
70 the purpose of the program established under section 26-107f, as
71 amended by this act, shall be deposited in the General Fund and
72 allocated to the program established under section 26-107f, as amended
73 by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	26-107f(b)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	26-107h
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	26-107i

ENV Joint Favorable Subst.