



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 146

February Session, 2026



AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF CROPS AND LIVESTOCK FROM CERTAIN WILDLIFE.

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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*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 crops
8 during the preceding growing season, as verified by the Department of
9 Energy and Environmental Protection if: (1) The owner or lessee of the
10 subject property utilized reasonable nonlethal efforts to protect such
11 [crops,] apiaries or livestock, including, but not limited to, electric
12 fencing, animal guardians or fortified enclosed structures, and (2) an
13 investigation by Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
14 personnel determines that the taking of such wildlife is necessary to
15 protect agricultural crops, apiaries or livestock from excessive damage
16 and that reasonable nonlethal efforts to protect such [crops,] apiaries or
17 livestock have not been or are not likely to be successful in preventing
18 further damage. Any such permit issued pursuant to this subsection
19 shall specify the means, methods and times for which such take is

20 allowed and shall only be issued by the commissioner to the: (A) Owner
21 of the subject property on which such excessive damage occurred, (B)
22 agent of such owner, or (C) lessee of such subject property, provided
23 such lessee has the written permission of such owner to take wildlife.
24 No application for a permit pursuant to this section shall require
25 notarization. Any wildlife taken pursuant to this section shall be
26 disposed of as directed by the department. The provisions of this
27 subsection shall not be construed to authorize the taking of any federally
28 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30 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*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.