



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 456

LCO No. 2421



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

***AN ACT CONCERNING A GRANT PROGRAM FOR WILDLIFE
REHABILITATION FACILITIES IN THE STATE.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) The Commissioner of
2 Energy and Environmental Protection may establish a grant program
3 for the issuance of grants to nonprofit wildlife rehabilitation
4 organizations with one or more facilities in the state that register with
5 the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and that meet
6 any requirements the commissioner establishes for the registration of
7 such wildlife rehabilitation organizations. The commissioner may
8 accept any funds or donations for the purpose of issuing such grants
9 and may establish an account of the General Fund for the receipt of any
10 such funds or donations. Any funds in such account shall not lapse at
11 the conclusion of any fiscal year and shall remain available to the
12 commissioner for the issuance of such grants.

13 (b) Any such registration requirement shall require a nonprofit
14 wildlife organization to submit, on an annual basis, to the commissioner
15 information concerning such organization, including, but not limited to,

16 the name and contact information for the owner or operator of such
17 wildlife rehabilitation organization, the location of any such facility in
18 the state, the specific species of wildlife rehabilitated at any such facility,
19 the financial structure of such wildlife rehabilitation organization, and
20 the background, education and training of any staff member or
21 volunteer, including, but not limited to, any veterinarian, utilized or
22 employed by any such wildlife rehabilitation organization and any
23 other information that the commissioner deems relevant. The
24 commissioner may impose an annual registration fee for any such
25 wildlife rehabilitation organization.

26 (c) The commissioner may establish criteria for the issuance of any
27 such grants, including, but not limited to, priority criteria for the
28 issuance of any such grants. The commissioner may adopt regulations,
29 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes,
30 to implement the provisions of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a grant program for certain nonprofit wildlife rehabilitation facilities in the state.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]