

STATE OF NEW YORK

1783

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 11, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. L. ROSENTHAL -- read once and referred to the
Committee on Environmental Conservation

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to
enacting the "monk parakeet protection act"

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assem-
bly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature finds that the monk
2 parakeet has been existing in a wild, undomesticated state in New York
3 since the late 1960s. The ancestors of the current flocks are believed
4 to have been imported legally into the United States from their native
5 land in Argentina. Since then, monk parakeets have established colonies
6 in parts of New York city and lower Westchester county. Their colonies
7 are small, and the population of monk parakeets seems to be rather
8 stabilized over the past 20 years. It is estimated that there are less
9 than 1,000 wild monk parakeets in the state of New York. Reports of
10 poaching and less than humane regard for nesting sites have led to the
11 need for formal protection of this species, which is recognized as non-
12 native, but not currently categorized as invasive, according to the
13 report Regulatory System for Non-native Species (New York Invasive
14 Species Council, 2010). The purpose of this act is to protect the wild
15 monk parakeet (a/k/a Quaker parakeet), the parrot species Myiopsitta
16 monachus, living in a wild state in various parts of the state of New
17 York. This act shall also provide humane methods of relocation or
18 removal, especially where threat to human life, private or public prop-
19 erty, or agricultural concerns, are imminent.

20 § 2. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "monk parakeet
21 protection act".

22 § 3. Article 11 of the environmental conservation law is amended by
23 adding a new title 27 to read as follows:

TITLE 27

MONK PARAKEET PROTECTION ACT

24
25 EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD01074-01-1

1 Section 11-2701. Definitions.

2 11-2703. Monk parakeets; protection.

3 § 11-2701. Definitions.

4 For purposes of this title, the following terms shall have the follow-
5 ing meanings:

6 1. "qualified individual" shall mean a person or persons with either a
7 degree in earth, biological or natural sciences, including geology,
8 environmental science, biology, zoology, or a specialization in orni-
9 thology;

10 2. "wild monk parakeet" shall mean a monk parakeet that was born in a
11 natural environment without human aid or intervention, and raised by its
12 own parents. The provisions of this title shall not apply to any monk
13 parakeet that is maintained in a breeding facility, or banded by a
14 breeder, or microchipped by a breeder or pet owner, or that is acquired
15 from a breeder or pet store and that is kept in a domestic situation as
16 a pet;

17 3. "qualified designated agent or authority" shall mean either a state
18 agency with qualified individuals, or an organization with members who
19 have a minimum of five years experience in the rescue and rehabilitation
20 of parrots or wild birds, and have at least two qualified individuals as
21 defined in subdivision one of this section. The qualified designated
22 agent or authority shall be affiliated with one or more avian veterina-
23 rians; and

24 4. "breeding season" shall mean the period of time beginning April
25 first and ending October first of a calendar year.

26 § 11-2703. Monk parakeets; protection.

27 1. No person shall capture or harm a wild monk parakeet chick, fledg-
28 ling, or adult, or take or sell its eggs, to any retail or private
29 establishment or concern.

30 2. No person shall remove the nest of a wild monk parakeet, unless
31 there is a documented and immediate threat to human life or public and
32 private property.

33 3. The collection of eggs, chicks, fledglings of wild monk parakeets,
34 or adult wild monk parakeets shall be done only under the supervision of
35 a designated and qualified individual or expert.

36 4. The removal of the nest of a wild monk parakeet, if necessary,
37 shall occur outside of breeding season, unless there is a documented and
38 immediate threat to human life or public and private property.

39 5. The state or a qualified designated agent or authority shall be
40 notified at least five days in advance of any proposal to remove the
41 nest of a wild monk parakeet. The designated agent or authority shall
42 propose alternative actions, and shall supervise any nest removals if an
43 alternative plan is not possible.

44 6. Private companies and organizations, utility companies, and govern-
45 mental agencies, shall make every effort to supply and erect alternative
46 nesting platforms where reasonably possible, if current wild monk parak-
47 eet nesting sites have been demonstrated to be a threat to human life,
48 private or public property, or agricultural concerns. Example plans and
49 drawings for nesting platforms shall be made available to the public on
50 the official webpage of the department.

51 7. If an effort to provide wild monk parakeets with alternative nest-
52 ing platforms fails or proves to be unsuccessful, an entity may employ
53 humane means to remove and euthanize wild monk parakeets, only as a last
54 resort. All other methods to provide alternative nesting options shall
55 be first exhausted. Such entity shall demonstrate in writing and
56 documentation that all efforts to provide alternatives have failed, and

1 shall outline the method by which euthanasia shall be applied. Such
2 entity shall also demonstrate that there is a documented and immediate
3 threat to human life or public and private property.

4 8. For purposes of this title:

5 a. the use of carbon monoxide or any other gas or vapor as a method of
6 euthanasia is prohibited;

7 b. the only acceptable form of euthanasia shall be by injection of an
8 anesthetic or anesthetic mixture which causes immediate and painless
9 cessation of pulmonary and coronary function; and

10 c. administration and supervision of the euthanasia procedure shall be
11 done by a licensed veterinarian, veterinary assistant or veterinary
12 technician.

13 9. The department may designate a qualified organization to carry out
14 the general administration of the provisions of this title.

15 10. A qualified organization designated pursuant to subdivision nine
16 of this section shall be entitled to reasonable reimbursement for
17 expenses in association with nest removal, from any entity so requesting
18 the services of such qualified organization. The requesting entity shall
19 provide, and operate, all necessary heavy equipment, including bucket
20 lifts or trucks. In addition, all expenses and costs associated with the
21 use of veterinary services for euthanasia shall be immediately reim-
22 bursed to the attending veterinarian by the requesting entity.

23 11. Any violation of the provisions of this title shall be a misdemea-
24 nor.

25 12. Nothing in this title shall be construed to prohibit or interfere
26 with the possession of a pet monk parakeet, or a domestically bred monk
27 parakeet, in this state, including but not limited to, prohibiting or
28 interfering with the possession, ownership, breeding, selling, or trans-
29 porting of a pet or domestically bred monk parakeet.

30 § 4. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall
31 have become a law.