

# STATE OF NEW YORK

1229--B

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 9, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. R. CARROLL, COLTON, REYES, BICHOTTE HERMELYN, WEPRIN, SEAWRIGHT, SIMONE, EPSTEIN, BURDICK, STECK, DAVILA, ROSENTHAL, SHIMSKY, MAMDANI, BORES, LEVENBERG, KELLES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Environmental Conservation -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to protecting wolves; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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

1 Section 1. The environmental conservation law is amended by adding a  
2 new section 11-0541 to read as follows:

3 § 11-0541. Protection of wolves.

4 1. All wild canids taken in the state shall be reported to the depart-  
5 ment in a manner to be determined by the department. For purposes of  
6 this section, "wild canids" shall mean coyotes and wolves, including  
7 canids that when taken were thought to be coyotes but which subsequent  
8 genetic analysis revealed to be wolves.

9 2. Wild canids that are taken, that have a weight greater than fifty  
10 pounds or that meet additional criteria established by the department in  
11 regulation, shall be submitted to the department, in a manner prescribed  
12 by the department in regulation. Such regulations shall ensure the  
13 anonymity of all personal identifying information, excluding information  
14 relating to the location of taking. Wild canids submitted shall be  
15 subject to genetic analysis, paid for by the department, to determine  
16 the genetic composition of the animal. Such analysis shall be conducted  
17 by a reputable laboratory that has prior experience genotyping hybri-  
18 dized Canis populations in the eastern United States. The results of any

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

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1 analysis performed shall promptly be provided to the public by posting  
2 on the department's website.

3 3. The department may also accept for genetic analysis a wild canid  
4 meeting the criteria in subdivision two of this section that is volun-  
5 tarily submitted, in a manner prescribed by the department, to the  
6 department by any person.

7 4. In the event that the department determines, based on genetic anal-  
8 ysis or other scientific method, that a wild canid taken or found in the  
9 state is a wolf, the department shall determine the location where the  
10 wolf was taken or found. In the event the department determines that  
11 there is reasonable likelihood that there may be one or more additional  
12 wolves in the vicinity where the wolf was taken or found, it may take or  
13 institute such measures consistent with its existing authority that it  
14 deems necessary to ensure the protection of such additional wolf or  
15 wolves.

16 5. No later than April first, two thousand twenty-eight, the depart-  
17 ment shall submit to the legislature a report on the status of wolves in  
18 the state, based on data collected by or submitted to the department and  
19 such other methods as determined appropriate by the department, and a  
20 recommendation as to whether the wild canid testing program should be  
21 continued. The status report shall also be posted on the department's  
22 website.

23 6. The department shall modify, and update as necessary, the syllabus  
24 required under subdivision two of section 11-0323 of this article, to  
25 include the legal protections for wolves, the testing and reporting  
26 requirements for wild canids under this section, and how to distinguish  
27 a wolf from a coyote when a hunter or trapper is in the field.

28 § 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2026 and shall expire and  
29 be deemed repealed January 1, 2029. Effective immediately, the addition,  
30 amendment, and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the  
31 implementation of this act on its effective date is authorized to be  
32 made and completed on or before such date.