

STATE OF NEW YORK

5402--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 21, 2025

Introduced by Sens. HOYLMAN-SIGAL, FERNANDEZ, HARCKHAM, JACKSON, KAVANAGH, MARTINEZ, SERRANO, SKOUFIS, WEBB -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Environmental Conservation -- 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

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 DNA 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
11 shall be subjected to a DNA analysis, paid for by the department, to
12 determine the genetic composition of the animal. Such analysis shall be
13 conducted by a reputable laboratory that has prior experience genotyping
14 hybridized Canis populations in the eastern United States. The results
15 of any analysis performed shall promptly be provided to the public by
16 posting on the department's website.

17 3. The department may also accept for DNA analysis a wild canid meet-
18 ing the criteria in subdivision two of this section that is voluntarily
19 submitted to the department by any person.

20 4. No information, or wild canid or any portion thereof, voluntarily
21 submitted by any person to the department pursuant to this section may

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

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1 be used as evidence of a violation by such person of section 11-0535 of
2 this title.

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

12 6. No later than January first three years after the effective date of
13 this section, and every six years thereafter, the department shall
14 submit to the legislature a report on the status of wolves in the state,
15 based on data collected by or submitted to the department and such other
16 methods as determined appropriate by the department. The status report
17 shall be simultaneously posted on the department's website.

18 7. The department shall modify its hunting and trapping training
19 curriculum to include educational information concerning the presence of
20 wolves in the state, the legal protections for wolves, the reporting
21 requirements for wild canids, and how to distinguish a wolf from a
22 coyote when a hunter or trapper is in the field.

23 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.