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:

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

§ 11-0541. Protection of wolves.

1. All wild canids taken in the state shall be reported to the department in a manner to be determined by the department. For purposes of this section, "wild canids" shall mean coyotes and wolves, including canids that when taken were thought to be coyotes but which subsequent DNA analysis revealed to be wolves.

2. Wild canids that are taken, that have a weight greater than fifty pounds or that meet additional criteria established by the department shall be subjected to a DNA analysis, paid for by the department, to determine the genetic composition of the animal. Such analysis shall be conducted by a reputable laboratory that has prior experience genotyping hybridized Canis populations in the eastern United States. The results of any analysis performed shall promptly be provided to the public by posting on the department's website.

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

4. No information, or wild canid or any portion thereof, voluntarily 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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be used as evidence of a violation by such person of section 11-0535 of this title.

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

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

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

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.