

4786

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

February 6, 2015

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Introduced by M. of A. CLARK -- read once and referred to the Committee  
on Agriculture

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to prohibiting the ownership, possession or harboring of a wild animal or reptile

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. Section 370 of the agriculture and markets law, as added by  
2 chapter 1047 of the laws of 1965, is amended to read as follows:  
3     S 370. [Protection of the public from attack by] PROHIBITION OF THE  
4 OWNERSHIP, POSSESSION OR HARBORING OF wild animals and reptiles. Any  
5 person owning, possessing or harboring a wild animal or reptile capable  
6 of inflicting bodily harm upon a human being[, who shall fail to exercise  
7 due care in safeguarding the public from attack by such wild animal  
8 or reptile,] is guilty of a [misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for  
9 not more than one year, or by a fine of not more than five hundred  
10 dollars, or by both] CLASS E FELONY AS DEFINED BY THE PENAL LAW.     FOR  
11 THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "[Wild] WILD animal" [within the meaning  
12 of this section, shall not include a dog or cat or other domestic  
13 animal] IS DEFINED IN ACCORDANCE TO PARAGRAPH E OF SUBDIVISION SIX OF  
14 SECTION 11-0103 OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW.  
15     Previous attacks upon a human being by such wild animal or reptile, or  
16 knowledge of the vicious propensities of such wild animal or reptile, on  
17 the part of the possessor or harborer thereof, shall not be required to  
18 be proven by the people upon a prosecution hereunder; and neither the  
19 fact that such wild animal or reptile has not previously attacked a  
20 human being, nor lack of knowledge of the vicious propensities of such  
21 wild animal or reptile on the part of the owner, possessor or harborer  
22 thereof shall constitute a defense to a prosecution hereunder.  
23     S 2. This act shall take effect on the first of November next succeeding  
24 the date on which it shall have become a law.

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

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