

# STATE OF NEW YORK

1883

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

January 11, 2017

Introduced by Sens. AVELLA, BOYLE, HAMILTON, LATIMER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Environmental Conservation

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to enacting "Cecil's law" relating to foreign game

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

- 1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as "Cecil's law".  
2 § 2. Section 11-1717 of the environmental conservation law, subdivi-  
3 sion 2 as amended by section 18 of part H of chapter 58 of the laws of  
4 2012, is amended to read as follows:  
5 § 11-1717. Foreign game.  
6 1. Foreign game means pheasants of all species, Scotch grouse, Norwe-  
7 gian ptarmigan, Norwegian white grouse, European black game, European  
8 black plover, European gray-legged partridge, European red-legged  
9 partridge, Egyptian quail, tinamou and species or subspecies of birds  
10 not native to this state, and European red deer, fallow deer [~~and~~],  
11 roebuck, and "big five African species". As used in this section, the  
12 term "big five African species" shall mean an organism of any of the  
13 following members of the animal kingdom: African Elephant (*Loxodonta*  
14 *africana*), African Lion (*Pantera leo*), African Leopard (*Panthera pardus*  
15 *pardus*), the Black Rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) and the White Rhinoce-  
16 ros (*Ceratotherium simum cottoni*), including any part, product, or  
17 offspring thereof, or the dead body or parts thereof (excluding  
18 fossils), whether or not included in a manufactured product or in a food  
19 product.  
20 2. The carcasses, or parts thereof, of foreign game imported from  
21 outside the United States may be bought and sold.  
22 3. a. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision two of this  
23 section, big five African species shall not be imported, possessed,

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

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1 sold, offered for sale, or transported by any individual, firm, corpo-  
2 ration, association, or partnership within the state of New York.

3 b. Any law enforcement officer shall have authority to enforce this  
4 prohibition and, where necessary, to execute any warrant to search for  
5 and seize big five African species imported, possessed, sold, offered  
6 for sale or transported in violation of this section. As used in this  
7 paragraph, the term "law enforcement officer" means any officer or agent  
8 authorized by the commissioner, or any police officer of the state of  
9 New York, or any police officer of any municipality within the state of  
10 New York, or any port authority agent or port authority police officer  
11 in the state of New York.

12 4. Unless such activity is prohibited by federal law, the following  
13 exceptions and defenses apply to the prohibitions of subdivision three  
14 of this section:

15 a. The big five African species was located or possessed within the  
16 state of New York prior to the effective date of the chapter of the laws  
17 of two thousand seventeen which amended this section and the legal owner  
18 has obtained a certificate of possession from the secretary of state; or

19 b. The big five African species is to be made part of a temporary or  
20 permanent collection of a museum chartered by the board of regents  
21 pursuant to the education law or to a museum authorized by a special  
22 charter from the legislature of this state, provided that the article is  
23 not thereafter sold, offered for sale, traded, bartered or distributed  
24 to any private party; or

25 c. The big five African species is distributed directly to a legal  
26 beneficiary of a trust or to a legal heir provided the article was  
27 located or possessed by the decedent prior to the effective date of the  
28 chapter of the laws of two thousand seventeen which amended this  
29 section; provided further that after transfer to the beneficiary or heir  
30 that the article is not thereafter sold, offered for sale, traded,  
31 bartered or distributed to any private party; provided further that the  
32 beneficiary or heir obtain a certificate of possession from the secre-  
33 tary of state within one hundred eighty days of obtaining the article.

34 § 3. Subdivision 1 of section 71-0919 of the environmental conserva-  
35 tion law is amended by adding a new paragraph g to read as follows:

36 g. In the cases provided for in section 11-1717 of this chapter: (a)  
37 Any big five African species, property and/or item used in connection  
38 with a violation of this section shall be held pending criminal  
39 proceedings in any court of proper jurisdiction.

40 (b) A defendant convicted of this offense shall be sentenced pursuant  
41 to paragraph (b) of subdivision one of section 55.10 of the penal law;  
42 provided, however, that any term of imprisonment imposed for violation  
43 of this section shall be a definite sentence, which may not exceed two  
44 years.

45 (c) Upon conviction, or upon the entry of a judgment restraining a  
46 defendant from importing, possessing, selling, offering for sale, or  
47 transporting any big five African species on the grounds that such  
48 activity is or would be in violation of section 11-1717 of this chapter,  
49 any seized property under this paragraph shall be forfeited and, upon  
50 forfeiture, destroyed.

51 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately.