STATE OF NEW YORK

8295--A

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

November 27, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. CARROLL, COLTON, REYES, BICHOTTE HERMELYN, WEPRIN, SEAWRIGHT, SIMONE, EPSTEIN, BURDICK -- read once and referred to the Committee on Environmental Conservation -- recommitted to the Committee on Environmental Conservation in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- 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 checked and tagged in a manner to be determined by the department. For purposes of this section, "wild canids" shall mean coyotes, 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. 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:

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

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(a) determine the location where the wolf was taken or found and determine, based on field research, whether there may be additional wolves in the vicinity;

(b) impose a moratorium on the taking of wild canids, in a specific area of the state, for as long as the department determines is necessary to protect any wolves in the occupied wolf territory and any potential adjacent territories; and

(c) inform the public of the moratorium through posting of written notices in the moratorium area and on the department's website.

4. 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.

5. 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 checking and tagging 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.