

STATE OF NEW YORK

667

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. ROSENTHAL, DINOWITZ, STERN, GONZALEZ-ROJAS, EPSTEIN, DAVILA, KELLES, SHIMSKY -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. LEVENBERG, SIMON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Environmental Conservation

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to prohibiting the use of leg-gripping traps

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

1 Section 1. Subdivisions 5 and 6 of section 11-1101 of the environ-
2 mental conservation law, subdivision 6 as amended by chapter 47 of the
3 laws of 1975, subparagraph (b) of paragraph b of subdivision 6 as
4 amended by chapter 911 of the laws of 1990, and paragraph a of subdivi-
5 sion 6 as amended and paragraph c of such subdivision as added by chap-
6 ter 605 of the laws of 1991, are amended to read as follows:

7 5. Except as provided in subdivision 1 or 2 of section 11-0523 with
8 respect to destructive and menacing wildlife, no person shall (a) set or
9 use a trap of the leg-gripping type [~~having teeth in the jaws~~]; (b) set
10 a trap so that wildlife when caught is suspended; (c) use, locate or set
11 a snare or a device consisting of a noose of any material whereby an
12 animal may be taken.

13 6. a. No person shall set or use a trap of the leg-gripping type [~~(a)~~
14 ~~having a spread of jaws exceeding 7 1/4" measured at right angles to the~~
15 ~~axis upon which the jaws operate and excluding the gripping surface of~~
16 ~~each jaw, when used under water during the open season for trapping~~
17 ~~beaver or otter, or (b) in any other case~~], except as provided in title
18 5 or in section 11-1109[~~, having a spread of jaws exceeding 5 3/4" as so~~
19 ~~measured~~].

20 b. No person shall set or use a body gripping type trap with a dimen-
21 sion of more than 7-1/2 inches except:

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

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1 (a) when used in water during the open season for trapping beaver and
2 otter; or

3 (b) as further permitted by the department by regulation.

4 The dimension of the body gripping trap shall be ascertained when the
5 trap is set in the extreme cocked position and shall be the maximum
6 distance between pairs of contacting body gripping surfaces except for
7 rectangular devices which shall be the maximum perpendicular distance
8 between pairs of contacting body gripping surfaces.

9 ~~[c. Traps of the leg-gripping type having a spread of jaws exceeding
10 4" measured as described in paragraph a of this subdivision, when set on
11 land (excluding traps originally set in water) (a) shall be covered at
12 the time the trap is set or visited; if the trap becomes uncovered after
13 it is set the covering shall be replaced at the time the trap is visit-
14 ed; coverings shall include but not be limited to soil, sand, leaves,
15 needles, other plant materials, and other substances as permitted by
16 department regulation; such substances shall completely cover the jaws
17 of the trap, and (b) shall be equipped with a pan tensioning device
18 which shall include but not be limited to a bolt and nut, notches
19 grooved in the pan and dog or lever, sheer pins, a spring under the pan
20 or strip of band steel, or other devices or modifications as permitted
21 by regulation of the department.]~~

22 § 2. Subdivision 7 of section 11-1901 of the environmental conserva-
23 tion law, as amended by chapter 351 of the laws of 1975, is amended to
24 read as follows:

25 7. On the licensed premises the licensee may take any unprotected wild
26 bird, or any predatory wildlife except, protected birds, disturbing
27 domestic game. Such birds or wildlife may be taken at any time and in
28 any manner, except that no trap of the leg-gripping type~~[, having teeth
29 in the jaws or having a greater spread of jaws than six inches,]~~ shall
30 be used for such purpose, nor shall a trap be set so that any wildlife
31 when caught shall be suspended. Carcasses of such birds or wildlife
32 shall be immediately buried or cremated, except that carcasses of unpro-
33 tected wildlife, and of protected wildlife other than birds if taken
34 during their respective open seasons, may be possessed, transported,
35 bought and sold to the extent permitted by section 11-0917.

36 § 3. Subdivision 9 of section 11-1903 of the environmental conserva-
37 tion law, as amended by chapter 351 of the laws of 1975, is amended to
38 read as follows:

39 9. On the premises described in the application for the license, the
40 licensee may take any unprotected wild birds, or any predatory wildlife
41 except protected birds, disturbing domestic game. Such birds or wildlife
42 may be taken at any time and in any manner, except that no trap of the
43 leg-gripping type~~[, having teeth in the jaws or having a greater spread
44 of jaws than six inches,]~~ shall be used for such purpose, nor shall a
45 trap be set so that any wildlife when caught shall be suspended.
46 Carcasses of such birds or wildlife shall be immediately buried or
47 cremated, except that carcasses of unprotected wildlife, and of
48 protected wildlife other than birds if taken during their respective
49 open seasons, may be possessed, transported, bought and sold to the
50 extent permitted by section 11-0917.

51 § 4. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall
52 have become a law.