

STATE OF NEW YORK

8693

IN SENATE

January 7, 2026

Introduced by Sen. SALAZAR -- 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 excluding certain amphibians and reptiles from the definition of small game; and to repeal certain provisions of such law relating thereto

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

1 Section 1. Paragraph c of subdivision 2 of section 11-0103 of the
2 environmental conservation law, as amended by chapter 706 of the laws of
3 2005, is amended to read as follows:

4 c. "Small game" means black, gray and fox squirrels, European hares,
5 varying hares, cottontail rabbits, [~~native frogs~~] bullfrogs, [~~native~~
6 ~~salamanders, native~~] common snapping turtles, [~~native lizards,~~] native
7 snakes, coyotes, red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) and gray fox (*Urocyon ciner-*
8 *eoargenteus*) except captive bred red fox or gray fox, raccoon, opossum,
9 or weasel, skunk, bobcat, lynx, muskrat, mink, except mink born in
10 captivity, fisher, otter, beaver, sable and marten but does not include
11 coydogs.

12 § 2. Subdivision 4 of section 11-0701 of the environmental conserva-
13 tion law, as amended by section 1-a of part R of chapter 58 of the laws
14 of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

15 4. A fishing license entitles the holder to take fish by angling,
16 spearing, hooking, longbow and tipups, to take [~~frogs by spearing,~~
17 ~~catching with the hands or by use of a club or hook,~~] bullfrogs in a
18 manner determined by the department in regulation and to take bait fish
19 for personal use, as provided in titles 9 and 13 of this article, except
20 that such license shall not entitle the holder to take migratory fish of
21 the sea or to take fish from the waters of the marine district.

22 § 3. Paragraph a of subdivision 6 of section 11-0703 of the environ-
23 mental conservation law, as amended by section 2 of part R of chapter 58
24 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

25 a. Except as provided in section 11-0707 and section 11-0709 of this
26 title, no person shall (1) hunt wildlife unless such person holds and is
27 entitled to exercise the privileges of a hunting license; (2) hunt
28 antlerless deer in a special open season therefor pursuant to subdivi-
29 sion 6 of section 11-0903 of this article unless such person holds and
30 is entitled to exercise the privileges of and has on [~~his or her~~] their

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

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1 person while so hunting a hunting license, bowhunting privilege or
2 muzzle-loading privilege, and a special antlerless deer license; (3)
3 take fish or [~~frogs~~] bullfrogs in the manner described in subdivision 4
4 of section 11-0701 of this title unless such person is entitled to exer-
5 cise the privileges of a fishing license; (4) trap wildlife unless such
6 person holds a trapping license.

7 § 4. Paragraph c of subdivision 1 of section 11-0707 of the environ-
8 mental conservation law, as amended by chapter 721 of the laws of 1975,
9 is amended to read as follows:

10 c. to take fish and [~~frogs~~] bullfrogs, except that they may not take
11 bait fish by net or trap, all as if they held the licenses defined in
12 section 11-0701 and required by subdivision six of section 11-0703[~~7~~
13 ~~subdivision 6~~].

14 § 5. Paragraph c of subdivision 3 of section 11-0901 of the environ-
15 mental conservation law, as amended by section 19 of part EE of chapter
16 55 of the laws of 2014, is amended to read as follows:

17 c. Wild small game and wild upland game birds shall be taken only by
18 longbow or gun, or by the use of raptors as provided in title 10 of this
19 article, except that:

20 (1) skunk, raccoon, bobcat, coyote, fox, mink and muskrat may be taken
21 in any manner not prohibited in this section or in title 11 of [~~the Fish~~
22 ~~and Wildlife Law~~] this article; and

23 (2) [~~frogs~~] bullfrogs may [~~also~~] be taken [~~by spearing, catching with~~
24 ~~the hands, or by the use of a club or hook~~] in any manner determined by
25 the department in regulation; and

26 (3) crossbows may be used but only by licensees who are fourteen years
27 of age or older.

28 § 6. Paragraph f of subdivision 2 of section 11-0903 of the environ-
29 mental conservation law, as added by chapter 706 of the laws of 2005, is
30 amended to read as follows:

31 f. [~~frogs, salamanders~~] bullfrogs, common snapping turtles, [~~lizards~~]
32 and snakes.

33 § 7. Paragraphs t and u of subdivision 2 of section 11-0905 of the
34 environmental conservation law are REPEALED.

35 § 8. Paragraph i of subdivision 2 of section 11-0905 of the environ-
36 mental conservation law, as amended by chapter 256 of the laws of 1999,
37 is amended to read as follows:

38 i. [~~Frogs~~] Bullfrogs Fixed annually Fixed annually
39 by regulation by regulation

40 § 9. Paragraph c of subdivision 6 of section 11-0103 of the environ-
41 mental conservation law, as amended by chapter 706 of the laws of 2005,
42 is amended and two new paragraphs f and g are added to read as follows:

43 c. "Protected wildlife" means wild game, protected wild birds,
44 protected insects, wild reptiles, wild amphibians, species of special
45 concern and endangered and threatened species of wildlife designated by
46 the department pursuant to section 11-0535 of this article, species
47 listed in section 11-0536 of this article and species protected pursuant
48 to section 11-0311 of this article.

49 f. "wild reptiles" means all native lizards and turtles, other than
50 common snapping turtles, existing in a wild state.

51 g. "wild amphibians" means all native toads, salamanders, newts, and
52 frogs, other than bullfrogs, existing in a wild state.

53 § 10. This act shall take effect immediately.