

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 1365

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

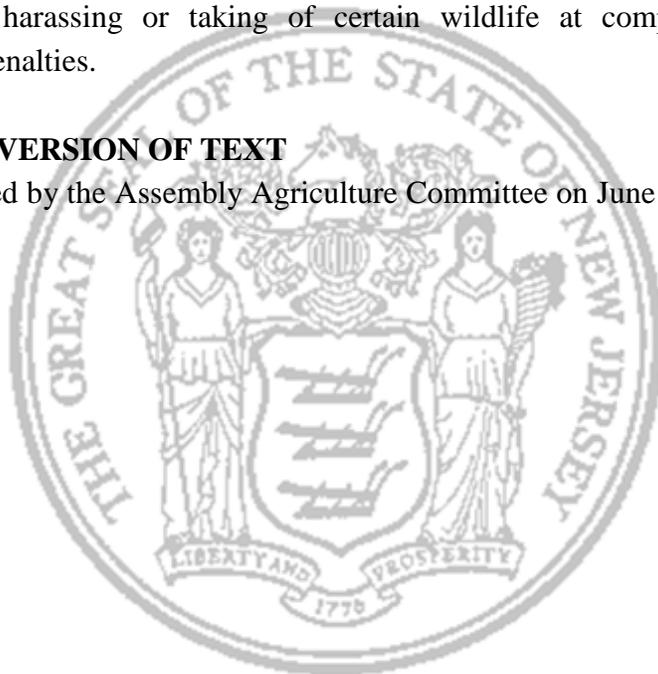
**Assemblyman Clifton, Assemblywomen Vainieri Huttle, Jasey,
Assemblymen Mukherji, Zwicker, Assemblywoman Swain, Assemblymen
Holley, Johnson, Assemblywoman Timberlake and Assemblyman Stanley**

SYNOPSIS

Prohibits harassing or taking of certain wildlife at competitive event;
establishes penalties.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Agriculture Committee on June 14, 2021, with
amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/8/2021)

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2

1 AN ACT concerning the harassing or taking of certain wildlife at
2 competitive events, and supplementing Title 23 of the Revised
3 Statutes.

4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7

8 1. As used in this act:

9 "Competitive event" means any activity, competition, contest,
10 derby, tournament, or other organized activity where participants are
11 encouraged to take wildlife and are rewarded by the receipt of a prize
12 or any kind of inducement or reward.

13 "Covered wildlife" means ¹[all animal life existing in a wild state,
14 or any part, product, egg, or offspring, or] a bobcat, coyote, crow, fox,
15 mink, opossum, rabbit, raccoon, skunk, squirrel, weasel, woodchuck,
16 or¹ the dead body or parts ¹[,] thereof ¹[, except for fish, shellfish,
17 mollusks, or crustaceans]¹.

18 "Division" means the Division of Fish and Wildlife in the
19 Department of Environmental Protection.

20 "Harass" means to annoy, attack, disrupt normal behavior patterns
21 of, or otherwise disturb wildlife without taking it.

22 "Person" means any individual, association, estate, firm, joint
23 venture, limited liability corporation ¹,¹ organization, partnership,
24 receiver, syndicate, trust, or other legal entity.

25 "Take" means to hunt, capture, kill, trap, catch, net, possess, or
26 collect, or to attempt to hunt, capture, kill, trap, catch, net, possess, or
27 collect, wildlife.

28

29 2. a. ¹**[It]** Except in conjunction with a field trial or field day
30 authorized by a license issued pursuant to R.S.23:4-26, it¹ shall be
31 unlawful ¹;

32 (1)¹ to harass or take covered wildlife at a competitive event ¹[. It
33 shall be unlawful] ; or

34 (2)¹ for any person to organize, sponsor, promote, conduct, or
35 participate in a competitive event at which the participants harass or
36 take covered wildlife.

37 b. A person who violates this section shall be guilty of a
38 disorderly persons offense and, in addition to the applicable penalties
39 pursuant to Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes, shall be subject to a
40 five-year suspension of:

41 (1) any license or permit issued to the person by the Division of
42 Fish and Wildlife; and

43 (2) all privileges to take or possess wildlife.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AAN committee amendments adopted June 14, 2021.

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- 1 c. Any covered wildlife injured as a result of a competitive event
2 held in violation of this section shall be transported to a licensed
3 wildlife rehabilitator or State licensed veterinarian for proper treatment
4 or, if necessary, the administration of humane euthanasia. Euthanasia
5 shall only be administered after the best efforts to rehabilitate and
6 release the animal have failed.
- 7 d. The Division of Fish and Wildlife shall forfeit the remains of
8 any covered wildlife killed at a competitive event held in violation of
9 this section, or euthanized pursuant to subsection c. of this section,
10 from the organizer, participant, or promotor in possession thereof, as
11 applicable. It shall become the property of the division.
- 12 e. The provisions of this section may be enforced by municipal
13 police officers, the State Police, and law enforcement officers in the
14 Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Division of Parks and Forestry in
15 the Department of Environmental Protection.
16
- 17 3. This act shall take effect immediately.