

ASSEMBLY, No. 2314

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 16, 1996

By Assemblymen WEINGARTEN, O'TOOLE and Lance

1 AN ACT concerning deer population control and supplementing Title
2 23 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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7 1. a. The Department of Environmental Protection shall design, in
8 consultation with the Humane Society of the United States, a pilot
9 project to test the efficacy and practical use of immuno-contraception
10 methods to reduce deer populations in the State. Within six months
11 of the effective date of this act, the department shall select an
12 appropriate deer population for the tests and immuno-contraception
13 methods that have received sufficient federal approvals to be tested in
14 the State, and shall begin the testing as soon thereafter as is
15 practicable. As used in this act, "immuno-contraception method"
16 means the injection of an animal with a drug that sterilizes, or prevents
17 conception in, the animal injected through the use of any one of
18 several drug delivery methods, including, but not limited to, the
19 shooting of a dart into the animal.

20 b. In designing the pilot project required pursuant to subsection a.
21 of this section, the department shall exercise caution to ensure that
22 the immuno-contraception methods, the procedures for testing the
23 methods, and the selection of the deer population to be tested present
24 no threat to the health, welfare and personal safety of the human
25 population of the State. In selection of the deer population to be
26 tested, the department shall include consideration of the deer
27 population of the South Mountain Reservation in Essex County, and
28 to the extent consistent with the provisions of this act, shall include
29 that deer population in the pilot project.

30 c. If, within three months of the effective date of this act, no
31 immuno-contraceptive methods have received sufficient federal
32 approvals to begin testing the methods as required by subsection a. of
33 this section, the department shall endeavor to attain the necessary
34 federal approvals and shall begin the testing as soon as possible
35 thereafter.

36 d. The testing required pursuant to subsection a. of this section
37 shall be conducted for the minimum period of time required to satisfy

1 federal requirements for drug testing prior to federal approval for
2 distribution and practical use in the State. The testing shall be
3 conducted for no more than two years from the date of the start of the
4 testing, except if otherwise required by federal law or regulation.

5 e. Within 90 days of the conclusion of the testing, the Department
6 of Environmental Protection shall report its findings to the Governor
7 and Legislature, including recommendations for practical use of
8 immuno-contraception methods to reduce the deer population in the
9 State and estimates of any costs associated with such practical use.

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11 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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15 This bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection, in
16 consultation with the Humane Society of the United States, to select
17 a deer population within six months of enactment and begin testing
18 immuno-contraceptive methods on the deer as soon as practicable.
19 The bill further directs the Department of Environmental Protection to
20 consider the deer population of the South Mountain Reservation in
21 Essex County for inclusion in the pilot project, and to report its
22 findings, recommendations for use of immuno-contraception methods,
23 and estimates of associated costs within 90 days of the conclusion of
24 the testing required.

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28 Requires DEP to test immuno-contraception methods on deer.