



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

***Raised Bill No. 5330***

LCO No. 1439



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:  
(ENV)

***AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN WILDLIFE ACTION PLANS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 26-107f of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
3 *1, 2026*):

4 (b) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall  
5 establish a conservation program for species not traditionally harvested  
6 which shall include, but not be limited to, provisions for the following:  
7 [Resource] Facilitation of the implementation of the most recent  
8 federally approved state of Connecticut wildlife action plan, resource  
9 inventory, including conservation action tracker measures, habitat  
10 conservation, monitoring of environmental and climate change impacts,  
11 conservation of endangered and threatened species, wildlife recreation  
12 management, wildlife conservation education, private landowner  
13 assistance, urban wildlife conservation, problem animal management  
14 and scientific research, planning, administration and development.  
15 Such conservation program shall provide for a wildlife veterinarian to  
16 assist in the oversight and implementation of such conservation

17 program.

18 Sec. 2. Section 26-107h of the general statutes is repealed and the  
19 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

20 [On or before February first, annually, the Commissioner of Energy  
21 and Environmental Protection shall submit to the joint standing  
22 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
23 relating to the environment a report on the progress of the program  
24 established under section 26-107f, the purposes for which any funds  
25 allocated to said program were expended and the future of the  
26 program.] (a) There is established a working group within the  
27 legislature to identify how the conservation program established in  
28 section 26-107f, as amended by this act, should be funded and  
29 implemented.

30 (b) Not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section,  
31 the cochairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General  
32 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment, in  
33 consultation with the ranking members of said committee, and the chief  
34 of the Bureau of Natural Resources of the Department of Energy and  
35 Environmental Protection shall jointly select two cochairpersons for  
36 such working group. Not later than forty-five days after the effective  
37 date of this section, the cochairpersons of such working group shall  
38 select the membership of such working group, which shall include, but  
39 not be limited to: (1) One representative of the Department of Energy  
40 and Environmental Protection, the Department of Transportation and  
41 the Office of Policy and Management, (2) two representatives of  
42 conservation advocacy organizations that work on wildlife-related  
43 issues, (3) one representative of a land conservation organization, (4)  
44 two members of the faculty of a state college or university, as  
45 recommended by the chief of the Bureau of Natural Resources of the  
46 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, (5) one  
47 representative from a council of governments, (6) a representative of the  
48 water utilities, (7) a representative of an organization that represents the

49 marine trades in the state, (8) a representative of the Connecticut Farm  
50 Bureau, or its designee, and (9) a certified forester in this state.

51 (c) The cochairpersons of such working group shall convene such  
52 working group not later than sixty days after the effective date of this  
53 section. The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
54 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the  
55 environment shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.  
56 Not later than January 15, 2027, the working group shall submit a report  
57 on its findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
58 legislative proposals, to the joint standing committee of the General  
59 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment, in  
60 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a. The working group  
61 shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 15,  
62 2027, whichever is later.

63 Sec. 3. Section 26-107i of the general statutes is repealed and the  
64 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

65 The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may  
66 establish a program for the sale of wildlife stamps, prints, posters,  
67 calendars, publications or other items. Any revenue received from the  
68 sale of such goods or materials and any funds donated to the state for  
69 the purpose of the program established under section 26-107f, as  
70 amended by this act, shall be deposited in the General Fund and  
71 allocated to the program established under section 26-107f, as amended  
72 by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	26-107f(b)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	26-107h
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	26-107i

***Statement of Purpose:***

To establish a working group to develop a plan for funding the state's conservation program for wildlife not usually harvested.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*