



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 456

February Session, 2026



**AN ACT CONCERNING A GRANT PROGRAM FOR WILDLIFE
REHABILITATION FACILITIES IN THE STATE.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) The Commissioner of
2 Energy and Environmental Protection may establish a grant program
3 for the issuance of grants to nonprofit wildlife rehabilitation
4 organizations with one or more facilities in the state that register with
5 the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and that meet
6 any requirements the commissioner establishes for the registration of
7 such wildlife rehabilitation organizations. The commissioner may
8 accept any funds or donations for the purpose of issuing such grants
9 and may establish an account for the receipt of any such funds or
10 donations. Any funds in such account shall not lapse at the conclusion
11 of any fiscal year and shall remain available to the commissioner for the
12 issuance of such grants.

13 (b) Any such registration requirement shall require a nonprofit
14 wildlife organization to submit, on an annual basis, to the commissioner
15 information concerning such organization, including, but not limited to,
16 the name and contact information for the owner or operator of such
17 wildlife rehabilitation organization, the location of any such facility in
18 the state, the specific species of wildlife rehabilitated at any such facility,
19 the financial structure of such wildlife rehabilitation organization, and

20 the background, education and training of any staff member or
21 volunteer, including, but not limited to, any veterinarian, utilized or
22 employed by any such wildlife rehabilitation organization and any
23 other information that the commissioner deems relevant. The
24 commissioner may impose an annual registration fee for any such
25 wildlife rehabilitation organization.

26 (c) The commissioner may establish criteria for the issuance of any
27 such grants, including, but not limited to, priority criteria for the
28 issuance of any such grants. The commissioner may adopt regulations,
29 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes,
30 to implement the provisions of this section.

31 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The sum of five hundred thousand
32 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Energy and Environmental
33 Protection from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30,
34 2027, for the purpose of funding the wildlife rehabilitation organization
35 grant program described in section 1 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*