
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 456

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

SUMMARY

This bill allows the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner to create a grant program for certain nonprofit wildlife rehabilitation organizations and appropriates \$500,000 in FY 27 for the program. Specifically, organizations eligible to receive grants under this program must (1) have at least one in-state facility registered with DEEP and (2) meet registration requirements the commissioner sets.

Under the bill, any registration requirements the commissioner sets must require a wildlife rehabilitation organization to annually give DEEP information on the (1) organization's owner or operator, including their name and contact information; (2) applicable facility's location; (3) rehabilitated species it works with; (4) organization's financial structure; and (5) organization's employees' or volunteers' background, education, and training relevant to their work there, including any veterinarians it uses or employs. The DEEP commissioner may also require any other registration information she determines necessary and charge wildlife rehabilitation organizations an annual registration fee.

The bill allows the DEEP commissioner to (1) set criteria for the grant program, including priority criteria for grants, and (2) adopt implementing regulations. The commissioner may also create a nonlapsing account for the program and accept any funds or donations for making grants.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 34 Nay 0 (03/18/2026)