



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Proposed Bill No. 5160

LCO No. 676



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:

REP. MICHEL, 146th Dist.

REP. KLARIDES-DITRIA, 105th Dist.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE HABITUATION OF BLACK BEARS.

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

1 That the general statutes be amended to: (1) Provide that no person
2 shall feed black bears, regardless of intent; (2) provide a grant program
3 to local communities, towns, parks and recreation departments, farmers
4 and landowners to use proven nonlethal techniques for preventing
5 human-bear conflicts or exploring an innovation, with promise, to
6 prevent such conflicts; (3) establish guidelines for a program to provide
7 rehabilitation and other nonlethal management protocols for orphaned
8 bear cubs and orphaned yearling bears; and (4) establish a funding
9 mechanism to compensate for structural damages on farms from black
10 bears with a plan for remediation, provided "remediation" means the
11 removal of the incentive that caused the bear to damage the farm
12 infrastructure.

Statement of Purpose:

To address intentional and unintentional feeding of black bears, as well as provide a grant program to use proven nonlethal techniques to avoid

conflicts, establish black bear cub rehabilitation guidelines and put in place a funding mechanism to compensate for structural damages made by black bears on farms.