General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 7051

January Session, 2025

LCO No. **5053**

Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:
(PS)

AN ACT CONCERNING A BLACK BEAR MANAGEMENT PLAN.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, in conjunction with Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, shall develop, and thereafter revise as necessary, a black bear management plan to ensure public safety and the protection of property and maintain a sustainable black bear population in the state. Such plan shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) An assessment of the current black bear population, and the desired future status of such population, in various regions of the state, (2) recommendations for minimizing human and black bear conflicts, (3) guidelines for public education initiatives concerning management and conflict avoidance, (4) strategies for nonlethal black bear deterrence and response, (5) an evaluation of potential black bear population control measures, (6) protocols for the public, the state and agencies, instrumentalities and political subdivisions of the state to manage black bears that pose an imminent threat to public safety or property, (7) recommendations for waste management practices to reduce black bear attractants, and (8) strategies

for coordinating with municipalities, law enforcement officers and interested parties to improve black bear safety measures.

(b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall submit the plan, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and the environment. If such plan is revised, the commissioner shall submit such revised plan to said committees not later than thirty days after the development of such revised plan.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*from passage*	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require the Commissioners of Energy and Environmental Protection and Emergency Services and Public Protection to develop a black bear management plan to ensure public safety and the protection of property and maintain a sustainable black bear population in the state.

[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.]