

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1522 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY PROBST, SANCHEZ, HOHENSTEIN, GUENST, MADDEN, HILL- EVANS, HOWARD, RADER, BOROWSKI, WEBSTER, VITALI, STEELE, BRENNAN, GREEN, OTTEN AND SHUSTERMAN, JUNE 27, 2023

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON GAME AND FISHERIES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 2, 2023

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant Program and the
2 Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant Fund; AND imposing duties on <--
3 the Pennsylvania Game Commission; and making annual interfund <--
4 transfers.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Wildlife
9 Rehabilitation Grant Program Act.

10 Section 2. Definitions.

11 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
12 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
13 context clearly indicates otherwise:

14 "Commission." The Pennsylvania Game Commission.

15 "Facilities." Equipment or housing used in, or necessary
16 for, wildlife rehabilitation.

17 "Fund." The Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant Fund established
18 under section 5(a).

1 "Program." The Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant Program
2 established under section 3(a).

3 ~~"Wildlife." As follows:~~ <--

4 ~~(1) Any of the following that are native to this~~
5 ~~Commonwealth and permitted in this Commonwealth for wildlife~~
6 ~~rehabilitation under 58 Pa. Code § 147.303 (relating to~~
7 ~~permit applications) regardless of classification, and~~
8 ~~whether protected or unprotected:~~

9 ~~(i) Mammals.~~

10 ~~(ii) Nonraptor avian species.~~

11 ~~(iii) Raptors of all species.~~

12 ~~(2) The term includes the eggs or offspring of the~~
13 ~~mammals, nonraptor avian species or raptors of all species~~
14 ~~under paragraph (1).~~

15 "WILDLIFE." AS DEFINED IN 34 PA.C.S. § 102 (RELATING TO <--
16 DEFINITIONS).

17 "Wildlife rehabilitation." As follows:

18 (1) The recovery, treatment, restoration or temporary
19 care of injured, sick, diseased, orphaned or displaced
20 wildlife.

21 (2) The term includes the subsequent release of healthy
22 wildlife to appropriate habitats in the wild.

23 "Wildlife rehabilitator." A nonprofit organization permitted
24 ~~under the laws of this Commonwealth to conduct wildlife~~ <--

25 ~~rehabilitation~~ AS A WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH 58 <--

26 PA. CODE CH. 147 SUBCH. P (RELATING TO WILDLIFE REHABILITATION).

27 Section 3. Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant Program.

28 (a) Establishment.--The Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant
29 Program is established and shall be administered by the
30 commission.

1 (b) Purpose.--The purpose of the program is to award grants
2 to wildlife rehabilitators in accordance with this act.

3 (c) Eligible uses of grants.--Grants awarded under the
4 program must be used for the following purposes:

5 (1) Wildlife rehabilitation.

6 (2) The improvement of facilities for wildlife
7 rehabilitation.

8 (3) A purpose related to any of the purposes described
9 under paragraph (1) or (2), as determined by the commission.

10 Section 4. Grant process.

11 (a) Application.--To be eligible for a grant under the
12 program, a wildlife rehabilitator must submit a written grant
13 application to the commission in a manner and on a form
14 prescribed by the commission. The application must include the
15 following information:

16 (1) The name, address and contact information of the
17 wildlife rehabilitator.

18 (2) The purpose or purposes for which the grant is
19 sought.

20 (3) The amount of the grant requested.

21 (4) The wildlife intake of the wildlife rehabilitator
22 from the previous fiscal year.

23 (5) Any other information or documentation required by
24 the commission.

25 (b) Review and determination.--

26 (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), within 60 days
27 after receipt of a completed application under the program,
28 the commission shall review the application and determine
29 whether to approve or deny the application, in whole or in
30 part.

1 (2) If the commission fails to make a determination in
2 accordance with paragraph (1), the application shall be
3 deemed denied.

4 (3) To aid in the determination of whether to award a
5 grant under the program, the commission may require
6 additional information or verification following receipt of a
7 completed application. In such an instance, the time period
8 specified under paragraph (1) shall commence upon receipt of
9 the additional information or verification.

10 (c) Wildlife intake.--The commission shall determine the
11 amount of each grant under the program based on the wildlife
12 intake of the wildlife rehabilitator from the previous fiscal
13 year, which is set as follows:

14 (1) For wildlife intake ~~involving~~ NUMBERS OF 1 to 100 <--
15 ~~animals or birds~~, \$2,500. <--

16 (2) For wildlife intake ~~involving~~ NUMBERS OF 101 to 250 <--
17 ~~animals or birds~~, \$5,000. <--

18 (3) For wildlife intake ~~involving~~ NUMBERS OF 251 to 500 <--
19 ~~animals or birds~~, \$7,500. <--

20 (4) For wildlife intake ~~involving~~ NUMBERS OF 501 to 750 <--
21 ~~animals or birds~~, \$10,000. <--

22 (5) For wildlife intake ~~involving~~ NUMBERS OF 751 to <--
23 1,000 ~~animals or birds~~, \$15,000. <--

24 (6) For wildlife intake ~~involving~~ NUMBERS OF 1,001 to <--
25 1,500 ~~animals or birds~~, \$20,000. <--

26 (7) For wildlife intake ~~involving~~ NUMBERS OF 1,501 to <--
27 2,000 ~~animals or birds~~, \$35,000. <--

28 (8) For wildlife intake ~~involving~~ NUMBERS OF 2,001 to <--
29 2,500 ~~animals or birds~~, \$50,000. <--

30 (9) For wildlife intake ~~involving~~ NUMBERS OF more than <--

1 2,500 ~~animals or birds~~, \$75,000.

2 (d) Other limitations.--

3 (1) Grants under the program shall be disbursed on a
4 first-come, first-served basis determined by the commission
5 and until all money in the fund is exhausted.

6 (2) The commission may award only one grant during a
7 calendar year for each office location of a wildlife
8 rehabilitator.

9 (e) Notice.--After making a determination regarding the
10 approval or denial, in whole or in part, of an application under
11 the program, the commission shall provide written notice of the
12 determination to the applicant. The following apply:

13 (1) If the commission approves the application, the
14 notice must include the amount of the grant awarded and any
15 conditions or restrictions on the use of the grant.

16 (2) If the commission denies the application, in whole
17 or in part, the notice must include the reasons for the
18 denial.

19 (f) Report by wildlife rehabilitator.--No later than the May
20 1 after a wildlife rehabilitator receives a grant under this
21 act, the wildlife rehabilitator shall provide to the commission
22 information on the use of the grant, including the wildlife
23 intake and wildlife rehabilitation efforts made possible as a
24 result of the grant, on a form and in a manner determined by the
25 commission.

26 Section 5. Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant Fund.

27 (a) Establishment.--The Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant Fund
28 is established as a nonlapsing fund in the State Treasury. Any
29 money remaining in the fund, including interest, at the end of
30 each fiscal year shall revert to the Game Fund.

1 (b) Fund sources.--

2 (1) ~~Funding for the program shall consist of an annual~~ <--
3 ~~transfer in the amount of \$300,000 to the fund from the Game~~
4 ~~Fund.~~ THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY APPROPRIATE MONEY TO CARRY OUT <--
5 THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT.

6 (2) The commission may solicit and accept alternative
7 funding for the program, including Federal money, grants,
8 donations, gifts and other payments from any source.

9 (3) Money for the program shall be deposited into the
10 fund.

11 (c) Appropriation.--All money deposited into the fund and
12 interest earned on the money in the fund are appropriated to the
13 commission on a continuing basis to award grants under the
14 program.

15 Section 6. Reports.

16 (a) Submittal.--No later than the June 1 that is at least
17 one year after the effective date of this subsection and each
18 June 1 thereafter, the commission shall submit a report on the
19 program to the following:

20 (1) The Governor.

21 (2) The executive director of the commission.

22 (3) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
23 Appropriations Committee of the Senate.

24 (4) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
25 Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives.

26 (5) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the Game
27 and Fisheries Committee of the Senate.

28 (6) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the Game
29 and Fisheries Committee of the House of Representatives.

30 (b) Contents.--Each annual report under this section shall

1 include the following:

2 (1) The number of applications received under the
3 program.

4 (2) The number of grants awarded under the program.

5 (3) The total dollar amount of grants awarded under the
6 program.

7 (4) The amount of each grant awarded under the program.

8 (5) The number of grants denied under the program, in
9 whole or in part, along with the reasons for the denial.

10 (6) The amount remaining in the fund.

11 (7) The use of each grant awarded, including each
12 wildlife rehabilitator's wildlife intake and wildlife
13 rehabilitation efforts made possible as a result of the
14 grant.

15 (8) Any recommendations by the commission to improve the
16 program.

17 (c) Posting.--Each annual report under this section shall be
18 posted on the publicly accessible Internet website of the
19 commission.

20 Section 7. Policies and procedures.

21 The commission shall implement any necessary policy or
22 procedure to administer the program and fund.

23 Section 8. Effective date.

24 This act shall take effect in 60 days.