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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 441 Session of  
2025

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INTRODUCED BY PIELLI, SANCHEZ, GIRAL, WEBSTER, HILL-EVANS,  
HOHENSTEIN, McANDREW, FREEMAN, BOROWSKI, OTTEN, VITALI,  
HOWARD, ISAACSON, BRENNAN, FRANKEL, GREEN, KHAN, MADDEN,  
D. WILLIAMS, GUENST, PROBST, KENYATTA, STEELE, KRAJEWSKI,  
RABB, CONKLIN AND DAVIDSON, JANUARY 31, 2025

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE  
PROTECTION, JANUARY 31, 2025

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 23, 1982 (P.L.597, No.170), entitled  
2 "An act providing for a voluntary contribution system to aid  
3 in the conservation of certain wild flora and fauna,  
4 establishing a special fund and providing for its  
5 administration, establishing a procedure for the protection  
6 of wild flora, establishing a permit system, imposing powers  
7 and duties on the Department of Environmental Resources and  
8 imposing penalties," further providing for legislative  
9 finding and declaration of policy and for definitions; and  
10 providing for wild native terrestrial invertebrate  
11 management.

12 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
13 hereby enacts as follows:

14 Section 1. Section 2(6) and (7) of the act of June 23, 1982  
15 (P.L.597, No.170), known as the Wild Resource Conservation Act,  
16 are amended to read:

17 Section 2. Legislative finding; declaration of policy.

18 It is hereby determined and declared as a matter of  
19 legislative finding that there are numerous flora and fauna,  
20 including those rare or endangered, which are not commonly

1 pursued, killed or consumed either for sport or profit, that  
2 such species are in need of more active management and that it  
3 is in the public interest to preserve and enhance such species  
4 for the benefit of all. Therefore, it is the purpose of this act  
5 to:

6 \* \* \*

7 (6) Conserve and protect wild plant species and wild  
8 native terrestrial invertebrates recognized as endangered,  
9 threatened or vulnerable.

10 (7) Conduct an investigation to determine the status of  
11 wild plants and wild native terrestrial invertebrates,  
12 classify wild plants and wild native terrestrial  
13 invertebrates indigenous to or found in the Commonwealth and  
14 provide for their protection.

15 \* \* \*

16 Section 2. The definition of "wild resource" in section 3 of  
17 the act is amended and the section is amended by adding a  
18 definition to read:

19 Section 3. Definitions.

20 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
21 have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the  
22 meanings given to them in this section:

23 \* \* \*

24 "Wild native terrestrial invertebrate." A naturally  
25 occurring native nonaquatic, land-dwelling animal lacking a  
26 backbone.

27 \* \* \*

28 "Wild resource." All fauna, including native terrestrial  
29 invertebrates, not commonly pursued, killed or consumed either  
30 for sport or profit, but not including any domestic fauna or any

1 domestic fauna that has reverted to a feral existence, and all  
2 flora not commonly considered an agricultural commodity.

3 Section 3. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

4 Section 7.1. Wild native terrestrial invertebrate management.

5 (a) In addition to the powers and duties granted to it by  
6 the act of June 28, 1995 (P.L.89, No.18), known as the  
7 "Conservation and Natural Resources Act," the Department of  
8 Conservation and Natural Resources shall, with cooperation from  
9 taxonomists, biologists, academia, nonprofit organizations and  
10 other interested persons, have the following duties:

11 (1) Conduct investigations on wild native terrestrial  
12 invertebrates in order to ascertain information relating to  
13 population, distribution, habitat needs, limiting factors and  
14 other biological and ecological data to classify terrestrial  
15 invertebrates and to determine management measures necessary  
16 for their continued ability to sustain themselves  
17 successfully.

18 (2) Coordinate with Federal and State agencies for  
19 successful wild native terrestrial invertebrate conservation.

20 (3) Develop practices and guidance for reducing and  
21 mitigating risks to invertebrate biodiversity.

22 (b) The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
23 shall establish a classification procedure that should include,  
24 but may not be limited to, the following categories:

25 (1) Endangered. Species in danger of extinction  
26 throughout all or most of its range if critical habitat is  
27 not maintained or is greatly exploited by man.

28 (2) Threatened. Species likely to become endangered  
29 throughout all or most of its range if critical habitat is  
30 not maintained or is greatly exploited by man.

1 (c) On the basis of such determinations, the Department of  
2 Conservation and Natural Resources shall issue regulations not  
3 later than two years from the effective date of this subsection,  
4 after public notice, after receiving data from interested  
5 persons and after holding public hearings. The regulations shall  
6 set limitations related to the taking, possessing, transporting,  
7 exporting, processing, selling or offering for sale or shipment  
8 as may be deemed necessary to manage wild native terrestrial  
9 invertebrates.

10 (d) Upon the issuance of the final regulations under  
11 subsection (c), the Department of Conservation and Natural  
12 Resources may create a list of endangered and threatened  
13 species. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
14 may add or delete species from the list under this subsection as  
15 conditions change and may amend the final regulations under  
16 subsection (c) to reflect the changing environment in accordance  
17 with the laws of this Commonwealth.

18 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.