

[Third Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3618

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator BOB SMITH

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman CLINTON CALABRESE

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman CHRIS TULLY

District 38 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman SHAMA A. HAIDER

District 37 (Bergen)

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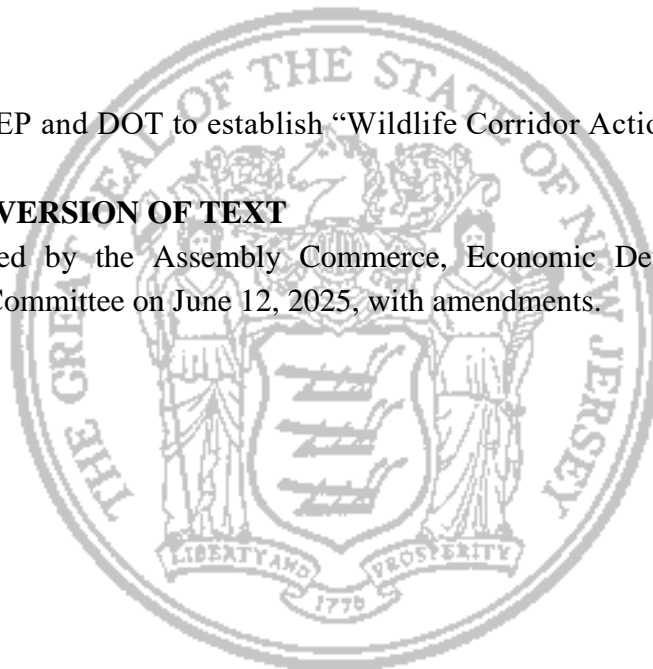
**Senator McKeon, Assemblywoman Hall, Assemblymen Myhre, Sampson,
Karabinchak and Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson**

SYNOPSIS

Directs DEP and DOT to establish “Wildlife Corridor Action Plan.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Commerce, Economic Development and
Agriculture Committee on June 12, 2025, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning the movement of wildlife throughout the State
 2 ³[.] and³ ²[¹and¹]² supplementing Title 23 ²[and Title 27]² of
 3 the Revised Statutes ¹[, and making an appropriation]¹ ³[, and
 4 making an appropriation²]³.

5
 6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
 7 of New Jersey:

8

9 1. a. As used in this section:

10 "Action plan" means the ²[Wildlife Corridor Action Plan]
 11 "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan"² developed ²[and implemented]²
 12 pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

13 ²"Crossing project" means a project within a wildlife corridor
 14 that incorporates additional measures into a transportation project,
 15 which measures promote motor vehicle driver safety and wildlife
 16 habitat connectivity and are conducive to wildlife quality of life and
 17 safety.

18 "Transportation project" means a project involving roadways,
 19 bridges, or culverts that has been included in the State's Annual
 20 Transportation Capital Program. "Transportation project" shall not
 21 include maintenance or repair projects.²

22 "Wildlife corridor" means a swath of land proximate to wildlife
 23 populations along which wildlife may move freely without
 24 ²significant² risk of injury or death from motor vehicles or ²undue²
 25 interference due to other man-made barriers.

26 b. No later than ²[24] ³⁶² months after the effective date of
 27 this act, the Department of Environmental Protection and the
 28 Department of Transportation shall jointly develop ²[and
 29 implement]² a "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan," ²based on the
 30 requirements outlined in subsection c. of this section,² which shall
 31 be updated at least every 10 years. No later than 60 days after the
 32 completion of the development of the plan, and any update or
 33 revision thereto, the Department of Environmental Protection and
 34 the Department of Transportation shall prepare and submit to the
 35 Governor, and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
 36 19.1), to the Legislature, a summary of the ²[Wildlife Corridor
 37 Action Plan] "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan"².

38 c. The ²[Wildlife Corridor Action Plan] "Wildlife Corridor
 39 Action Plan"² shall:

40 (1) identify wildlife corridors, wildlife-vehicle collision hotspots,
 41 and existing or planned barriers to wildlife movement along these
 42 corridors;

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SEN committee amendments adopted October 10, 2024.

²Assembly ATR committee amendments adopted March 10, 2025.

³Assembly ACE committee amendments adopted June 12, 2025.

1 (2) ²**[prioritize]** identify² and recommend ²criteria for² crossing
2 projects to promote motor vehicle driver safety and wildlife
3 connectivity with natural and wildlife areas conducive to quality of
4 life and safety for wildlife ²**[**The Department of Transportation
5 shall incorporate the recommended crossing projects into road
6 construction, maintenance, or repair projects whenever feasible¹**]**²;

7 (3) use relevant State databases and complement and incorporate
8 existing conservation strategies developed in the State, including
9 but not limited to, any State wildlife action plans and the
10 Department of Environmental Protection's "Connecting ²**[Habitats]**
11 Habitat² Across New Jersey" project (NJ CHANJ);

12 (4) consider the impact of ²**[road]** transportation² projects on
13 wildlife corridors ²**[incorporating]** and recommend² strategies to
14 mitigate threats to wildlife and wildlife corridors by modifying and
15 incorporating safety measures into ²**[road and highway**
16 construction] transportation² projects; and

17 (5) coordinate action between the Department of Environmental
18 Protection, the Department of Transportation, other State agencies
19 and independent authorities, federal agencies, and national and
20 State conservation, environment, and wildlife groups and
21 organizations to maximize the effectiveness and safety of wildlife
22 corridors.

23 d. ²**[While developing and implementing the action plan**
24 pursuant to subsections b. and c. of this section, the Department of
25 Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation
26 may call upon the advice and services of other State agencies and
27 independent authorities, federal agencies, and national and State
28 conservation, environment, or wildlife groups and organizations]
29 No later than 36 months after the "Wildlife Corridor Action Plan" is
30 submitted to the Governor and the Legislature, pursuant to
31 subsection b. of this section, the Department of Transportation shall
32 review the plan and identify and recommend crossing projects that,
33 to the extent feasible, may be incorporated into a transportation
34 project. The Department of Transportation shall not identify and
35 recommend crossing projects for inclusion in any transportation
36 project that has surpassed the concept development phase, the
37 selection of a preferred alternative, or an equivalent milestone since
38 the enactment of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
39 Legislature as this bill)².

40 e. ²**[The Department of Environmental Protection shall adopt,**
41 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
42 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the
43 implementation of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
44 Legislature as this bill)] While developing the action plan pursuant
45 to subsection b. of this section, the Department of Environmental
46 Protection and the Department of Transportation may call upon the
47 advice and services of other State agencies and independent

1 authorities, federal agencies, and national and State conservation,
2 environment, or wildlife groups and organizations. While
3 reviewing the plan pursuant to subsection d. of this section, the
4 Department of Transportation may call upon the advice and services
5 of other State agencies and independent authorities, federal
6 agencies, and national and State conservation, environment, or
7 wildlife groups and organizations².

8
9 ²2. The Department of Environmental Protection may adopt,
10 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
11 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the
12 implementation of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
13 Legislature as this bill).²

14
15 ²[2.] 3.² The Department of Transportation ²[shall] may²
16 adopt, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968,
17 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the
18 implementation of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
19 Legislature as this bill).

20
21 ¹[3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
22 Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of
23 Transportation, to be allocated to each department as necessary, the
24 sum of \$90,000 to implement the provisions of this act.]¹

25
26 ³[²4. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
27 Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of
28 Transportation, to be allocated to each department as necessary, the
29 sum of \$90,000 to implement the provisions of this act.]³

30
31 ¹[4.] ²[3.] ³[5.] ⁴4.³ This act shall take effect immediately.