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Governor Chris Christie Takes Action On Pending Legislation

Friday, July 15, 2016

Tags: [Bill Action](#)

Trenton, NJ – Governor Chris Christie today signed A-2949 (DeAngelo, Pinkin, Tucker, Andrzejczak, Conaway, Land/Beach, Allen) to protect the northern diamondback terrapin as a nongame indigenous species, which is declining due to illegal harvesting, habitat loss and predation.

"Today we join other Atlantic coastal states that have taken an important step to prevent this unique species from any further decline toward extinction. The diamondback terrapin is a natural treasure and integral part of our coastal landscape in New Jersey, and this action will help to ensure the species remains a feature of our natural landscape for generations to come," said Governor Christie.

The terrapin, which live exclusively in brackish waters, is found in coastal marshes and estuaries along the Atlantic seaboard, including the Barnegat Bay and along the Delaware Bay. The law bans all harvesting of the creature, designating the terrapin a nongame indigenous species, which also prohibits disturbing the terrapin's nests and eggs.

The Governor also acted today on other pending legislation:

BILLS SIGNED:

A-2515/S-2003 (DeAngelo, Pinkin, Tucker, Andrzejczak, Conaway, Land/Beach, Allen) – Establishes New Jersey Military Skills Council

BILL VETOED:

A-893/S-1734 (Vainieri Huttie, Jimenez, Moriaty, Downey/Turner, Vitale) – **CONDITIONAL** - Prohibits smoking at public parks and beaches

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