

23:2A-4.1
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST
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LAWS OF: 2016 **CHAPTER:** 17

NJSA: 23:2A-4.1 (Provides diamondback terrapins protection as nongame indigenous species)

BILL NO: A2949 (Substituted for S1625)

SPONSOR(S) Andrzejczak and others

DATE INTRODUCED: February 16, 2016

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Agriculture and Natural Resources

SENATE: ---

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: No

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** April 7, 2016

SENATE: May 26, 2016

DATE OF APPROVAL: July 15, 2016

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (Introduced version of bill enacted)

A2949

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 2 of introduced bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

SENATE: No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

S1625

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 2 of introduced bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No

SENATE: Yes

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

(continued)

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: Yes

"Diamondback terrapins, popular Asian meat, now off limits," Associated Press State Wire: New Jersey, July 16, 2016

"Diamondback terrapin turtles now off limits in New Jersey," Associated Press State Wire: New Jersey, July 16, 2016

"Christie vetoes ban of smoking on N.J. beaches," Press of Atlantic City, July 16, 2016

"Christie vetoes smoking ban for all beaches, endorses one for state parks," NewJersey101.5, July 18, 2016

"A big win for diamondback terrapins and their protectors, Press of Atlantic City, July 18, 2016

"Legislation protecting New Jersey terrapins a key step for species," NorthJersey.com, July 19, 2016

RWH/JA

P.L.2016, CHAPTER 17, *approved July 15, 2016*
Assembly, No. 2949

1 AN ACT concerning diamondback terrapins and supplementing
2 P.L.1973, c.309 (C.23:2A-1 et seq.).
3

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

7 1. a. Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the
8 contrary, the diamondback terrapin shall be designated as a
9 nongame indigenous species and shall be subject to the laws, rules,
10 and regulations governing the importation, care, possession, and
11 breeding of that type of animal in the State.

12 b. Any diamondback terrapin, including any nest or egg
13 thereof, shall be protected by the Department of Environmental
14 Protection, any other State agency, and any local governmental
15 entity in the same manner and to the same extent as any nongame
16 species of reptile indigenous to the State that is protected by "The
17 Endangered and Nongame Species Conservation Act," P.L.1973,
18 c.309 (C.23:2A-1 et seq.), any other applicable State law, or any
19 rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto.

20 c. The commissioner shall investigate populations, distribution,
21 habitat needs, limiting factors, and other biological and ecological
22 data concerning the State's diamondback terrapin population to
23 determine management measures necessary for their continued
24 ability to sustain themselves successfully. On the basis of such
25 determinations, the commissioner shall develop management
26 programs which shall be designed to insure the continued ability of
27 the State's diamondback terrapin population to perpetuate
28 themselves successfully.
29

30 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
31
32

33 STATEMENT
34

35 This bill provides the protection afforded by "The Endangered
36 and Nongame Species Conservation Act" to the diamondback
37 terrapin.

38 The bill designates the diamondback terrapin as a nongame
39 indigenous species subject to the same laws, rules, and regulations
40 governing other nongame indigenous reptiles in the State. As a
41 result of this designation, it would no longer be legal to catch or
42 take diamondback terrapin in New Jersey. The bill also requires the
43 Commissioner of Environmental Protection to investigate biological
44 and ecological data concerning the State's diamondback terrapin

1 population and determine management measures necessary for the
2 continued viability of the State's diamondback terrapin population.

3 The diamondback terrapin (*Malaclemys terrapin* or *Malaclemys*
4 *palustris*) is native to New Jersey and inhabits the State's coastal
5 salt marshes and estuaries along the Atlantic Coast and Delaware
6 Bay. Habitat loss and road mortality pose major threats to the
7 health of the population. Each year, hundreds of terrapins are killed
8 by motor vehicle, particularly in summer months when females
9 actively search for suitable nest sites. Affording the diamondback
10 terrapin protection as a nongame indigenous species subject to "The
11 Endangered and Nongame Species Conservation Act" will help
12 encourage conservation of the species and its habitats.

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17 Provides diamondback terrapins protection as nongame
18 indigenous species.

ASSEMBLY, No. 2949

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 16, 2016

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman BOB ANDRZEJCZAK
District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)
Assemblyman R. BRUCE LAND
District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)
Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING
District 11 (Monmouth)
Assemblyman REED GUSCIORA
District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)
Assemblyman PAUL D. MORIARTY
District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)
Senator JEFF VAN DREW
District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)
Senator ROBERT M. GORDON
District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

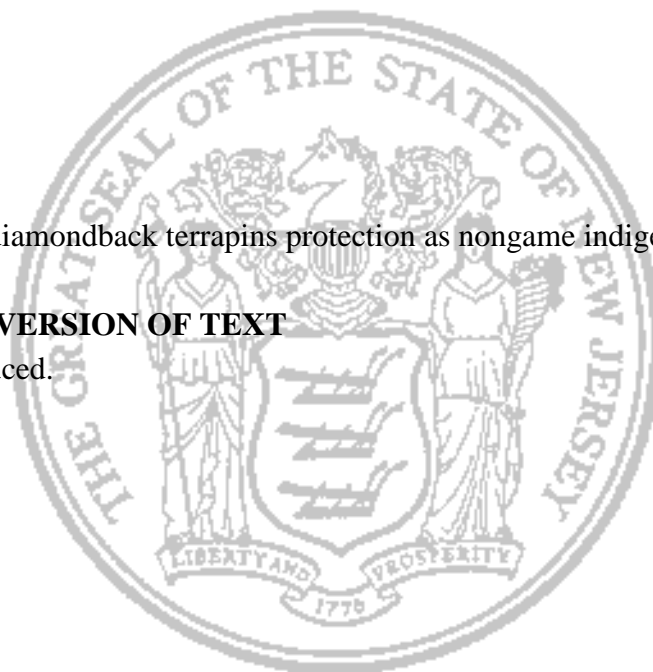
Assemblywomen Downey, Spencer, Assemblymen Eustace, Benson, Conaway and Senator Whelan

SYNOPSIS

Provides diamondback terrapins protection as nongame indigenous species.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/27/2016)

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A2949 ANDRZEJCZAK, LAND

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ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2949

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 3, 2016

The Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2949.

This bill provides the protection afforded by "The Endangered and Nongame Species Conservation Act" to the diamondback terrapin.

The bill designates the diamondback terrapin as a nongame indigenous species subject to the same laws, rules, and regulations governing other nongame indigenous reptiles in the State. As a result of this designation, it would no longer be legal to catch or take diamondback terrapin in New Jersey. The bill also requires the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to investigate biological and ecological data concerning the State's diamondback terrapin population and determine management measures necessary for the continued viability of the State's diamondback terrapin population.

SENATE, No. 1625

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 16, 2016

Sponsored by:

Senator JEFF VAN DREW

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Senator ROBERT M. GORDON

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Whelan

SYNOPSIS

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S1625 VAN DREW, GORDON

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8 encourage conservation of the species and its habitats.

SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1625

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 7, 2016

The Senate Environment and Energy Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 1625.

This bill provides the protection afforded by "The Endangered and Nongame Species Conservation Act" to the diamondback terrapin.

The bill designates the diamondback terrapin as a nongame indigenous species subject to the same laws, rules, and regulations governing other nongame indigenous reptiles in the State. As a result of this designation, it would no longer be legal to catch or take diamondback terrapin in New Jersey. The bill also requires the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to investigate biological and ecological data concerning the State's diamondback terrapin population and determine management measures necessary for the continued viability of the State's diamondback terrapin population.

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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 Huttle, Jimenez, Moriaty, Downey/Turner, Vitale) – **CONDITIONAL** - Prohibits smoking at public parks and beaches

Press Contact:
Brian Murray
609-777-2600

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