



New York State

ASSEMBLY

Sheldon Silver - Speaker

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

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BILL NO A07935

SAME AS No same as

SPONSOR Clark

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Amd S370, Ag & Mkts L

Prohibits the ownership, possession or harboring of a wild animal or reptile;
makes violation a class E felony.

A07935 Actions:

BILL NO A07935

04/28/2009 referred to agriculture

01/06/2010 referred to agriculture

A07935 Votes:**A07935 Memo:**

BILL NUMBER:A7935

TITLE OF BILL: An act to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to prohibiting the ownership, possession or harboring of a wild animal or reptile

PURPOSE OR GENERAL IDEA OF BILL:

SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS: This bill amends section 370 of the agriculture and markets law, as added by chapter 1047 of the laws of 1965, to prohibit the ownership, possession or harboring of wild animals and reptiles as defined in accordance to paragraph e of subdivision six of section 11-0103 of the environmental conservation law, and to classify violations of section 370 as class E felonies. This bill does not alter existing exemptions in section 11-0512 of the environmental conservation law that allow certain persons and entities to possess wild animals.

JUSTIFICATION: Current law regulates certain ownership of wild animals and reptiles by making owners who fail to exercise due care in safeguarding the public from attack by such animals guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year imprisonment and/or a fine of up to \$500. As the recent tragic attack by a wild animal on a woman in Connecticut made clear, however, wild animal owners may not always recognize, understand, or be equipped to adequately handle the physical and behavioral needs of these animals. As a result, owners may not be able to safeguard the public by preventing attack by the animal.

By prohibiting certain ownership of wild animals and by penalizing violations of the law as a felony, this bill will help to ensure the well-being of both wild animals and the public by ensuring wild animals are only owned by persons and entities properly equipped to recognize and meet their physical and behavioral needs.

PRIOR LEGISLATIVE HISTORY: This is a new bill.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: To be determined.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The first of November next succeeding the date on which it becomes law.

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