

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 279

Session of  
1983

INTRODUCED BY O'CONNELL, SINGEL, SNYDER, HELFRICK, REIBMAN AND  
ANDREZESKI, FEBRUARY 15, 1983

REFERRED TO GAME AND FISHERIES, FEBRUARY 15, 1983

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1225, No.316), entitled  
2 "An act concerning game and other wild birds and wild  
3 animals; and amending, revising, consolidating, and changing  
4 the law relating thereto," further providing menagerie  
5 permits for educational purposes.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Section 417 of the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1225,  
9 No.316), known as The Game Law, amended March 13, 1982 (P.L.185,  
10 No.60), is amended to read:

11 Section 417. Permits for Menageries.--(a) The commission  
12 may grant permits for menageries which are hereby defined as any  
13 place where one or more wild birds or wild animals or one or  
14 more birds or animals which have similar characteristics and  
15 appearance of birds or animals wild by nature are kept in  
16 captivity for the evident purpose of exhibition with or without  
17 charge.

18 (b) The director may issue a menagerie permit to any person  
19 for the exclusive purpose of displaying wildlife native to

1 Pennsylvania for educational purposes which permit shall be  
2 issued free of charge. The phrase "educational purposes" shall  
3 mean displays by or for public or private schools, sportsmen's  
4 organizations, Boy Scout Troops, Girl Scout Troops, conservation  
5 camps and schools or any other organization deemed appropriate  
6 by the director.

7     (c) The term "menagerie" shall not include the exhibition of  
8 any wild bird or wild animal in any public zoological garden,  
9 which receives government grants or appropriations or by any  
10 nationally recognized circus. Any sportsmen's club or  
11 organization incorporated under the laws of this Commonwealth  
12 may sponsor and conduct a menagerie at an annual county fair and  
13 under such circumstances the menagerie permit shall be issued  
14 free of charge. The term "wildlife" as used in this section  
15 shall mean any wild bird or wild animal or any bird or animal  
16 having similar characteristics and appearance of a bird or  
17 animal wild by nature as distinguished from the common domestic  
18 birds or animals, whether or not such birds or animals were bred  
19 or reared in captivity.

20     (d) No permit shall be granted by the commission until it is  
21 satisfied that the provisions for housing and caring for such  
22 wildlife, and for protecting the public, are proper and  
23 adequate, and in accordance with the standard therefor  
24 established by the commission.

25     (e) The commission shall adopt and enforce rules and  
26 regulations for the housing, care, treatment, feeding,  
27 sanitation, purchase and disposal of wildlife kept in  
28 menageries, and for the protection of the public from injury by  
29 such wildlife.

30     (f) It is unlawful for any person, firm, association or

1 corporation to keep any wildlife in captivity, for public  
2 exhibition or to have any wildlife in custody or control for  
3 such purpose, without first securing a menagerie permit issued  
4 by the commission.

5 (g) It shall be unlawful for the holder of a menagerie  
6 permit to violate any of the provisions of this act or rules and  
7 regulations adopted thereunder by the commission or to release  
8 any wildlife into the wild. In addition to the cash penalties  
9 hereinafter provided, the director of the commission may, for  
10 violating any of the provisions of this section or rules and  
11 regulations adopted thereunder, revoke or suspend any menagerie  
12 permit and order the disposal of any wildlife held.

13 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.