
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1522 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY PROBST, HILL-EVANS, HOHENSTEIN AND BRENNAN,
JUNE 27, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAME AND FISHERIES, JUNE 27, 2023

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant Program and the
2 Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant Fund; imposing duties on the
3 Pennsylvania Game Commission; and making annual interfund
4 transfers.

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

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Wildlife
9 Rehabilitation Grant Program Act.

10 Section 2. Definitions.

11 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
12 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
13 context clearly indicates otherwise:

14 "Commission." The Pennsylvania Game Commission.

15 "Facilities." Equipment or housing used in, or necessary
16 for, wildlife rehabilitation.

17 "Fund." The Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant Fund established
18 under section 5(a).

19 "Program." The Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant Program

1 established under section 3(a).

2 "Wildlife." As follows:

3 (1) Any of the following that are native to this
4 Commonwealth and permitted in this Commonwealth for wildlife
5 rehabilitation under 58 Pa. Code § 147.303 (relating to
6 permit applications) regardless of classification, and
7 whether protected or unprotected:

8 (i) Mammals.

9 (ii) Nonraptor avian species.

10 (iii) Raptors of all species.

11 (2) The term includes the eggs or offspring of the
12 mammals, nonraptor avian species or raptors of all species
13 under paragraph (1).

14 "Wildlife rehabilitation." As follows:

15 (1) The recovery, treatment, restoration or temporary
16 care of injured, sick, diseased, orphaned or displaced
17 wildlife.

18 (2) The term includes the subsequent release of healthy
19 wildlife to appropriate habitats in the wild.

20 "Wildlife rehabilitator." A nonprofit organization permitted
21 under the laws of this Commonwealth to conduct wildlife
22 rehabilitation.

23 Section 3. Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant Program.

24 (a) Establishment.--The Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant
25 Program is established and shall be administered by the
26 commission.

27 (b) Purpose.--The purpose of the program is to award grants
28 to wildlife rehabilitators in accordance with this act.

29 (c) Eligible uses of grants.--Grants awarded under the
30 program must be used for the following purposes:

1 (1) Wildlife rehabilitation.

2 (2) The improvement of facilities for wildlife
3 rehabilitation.

4 (3) A purpose related to any of the purposes described
5 under paragraph (1) or (2), as determined by the commission.

6 Section 4. Grant process.

7 (a) Application.--To be eligible for a grant under the
8 program, a wildlife rehabilitator must submit a written grant
9 application to the commission in a manner and on a form
10 prescribed by the commission. The application must include the
11 following information:

12 (1) The name, address and contact information of the
13 wildlife rehabilitator.

14 (2) The purpose or purposes for which the grant is
15 sought.

16 (3) The amount of the grant requested.

17 (4) The wildlife intake of the wildlife rehabilitator
18 from the previous fiscal year.

19 (5) Any other information or documentation required by
20 the commission.

21 (b) Review and determination.--

22 (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), within 60 days
23 after receipt of a completed application under the program,
24 the commission shall review the application and determine
25 whether to approve or deny the application, in whole or in
26 part.

27 (2) If the commission fails to make a determination in
28 accordance with paragraph (1), the application shall be
29 deemed denied.

30 (3) To aid in the determination of whether to award a

1 grant under the program, the commission may require
2 additional information or verification following receipt of a
3 completed application. In such an instance, the time period
4 specified under paragraph (1) shall commence upon receipt of
5 the additional information or verification.

6 (c) Wildlife intake.--The commission shall determine the
7 amount of each grant under the program based on the wildlife
8 intake of the wildlife rehabilitator from the previous fiscal
9 year, which is set as follows:

10 (1) For wildlife intake involving 1 to 100 animals or
11 birds, \$2,500.

12 (2) For wildlife intake involving 101 to 250 animals or
13 birds, \$5,000.

14 (3) For wildlife intake involving 251 to 500 animals or
15 birds, \$7,500.

16 (4) For wildlife intake involving 501 to 750 animals or
17 birds, \$10,000.

18 (5) For wildlife intake involving 751 to 1,000 animals
19 or birds, \$15,000.

20 (6) For wildlife intake involving 1,001 to 1,500 animals
21 or birds, \$20,000.

22 (7) For wildlife intake involving 1,501 to 2,000 animals
23 or birds, \$35,000.

24 (8) For wildlife intake involving 2,001 to 2,500 animals
25 or birds, \$50,000.

26 (9) For wildlife intake involving more than 2,500
27 animals or birds, \$75,000.

28 (d) Other limitations.--

29 (1) Grants under the program shall be disbursed on a
30 first-come, first-served basis determined by the commission

1 and until all money in the fund is exhausted.

2 (2) The commission may award only one grant during a
3 calendar year for each office location of a wildlife
4 rehabilitator.

5 (e) Notice.--After making a determination regarding the
6 approval or denial, in whole or in part, of an application under
7 the program, the commission shall provide written notice of the
8 determination to the applicant. The following apply:

9 (1) If the commission approves the application, the
10 notice must include the amount of the grant awarded and any
11 conditions or restrictions on the use of the grant.

12 (2) If the commission denies the application, in whole
13 or in part, the notice must include the reasons for the
14 denial.

15 (f) Report by wildlife rehabilitator.--No later than the May
16 1 after a wildlife rehabilitator receives a grant under this
17 act, the wildlife rehabilitator shall provide to the commission
18 information on the use of the grant, including the wildlife
19 intake and wildlife rehabilitation efforts made possible as a
20 result of the grant, on a form and in a manner determined by the
21 commission.

22 Section 5. Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant Fund.

23 (a) Establishment.--The Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant Fund
24 is established as a nonlapsing fund in the State Treasury. Any
25 money remaining in the fund, including interest, at the end of
26 each fiscal year shall revert to the Game Fund.

27 (b) Fund sources.--

28 (1) Funding for the program shall consist of an annual
29 transfer in the amount of \$300,000 to the fund from the Game
30 Fund.

1 (2) The commission may solicit and accept alternative
2 funding for the program, including Federal money, grants,
3 donations, gifts and other payments from any source.

4 (3) Money for the program shall be deposited into the
5 fund.

6 (c) Appropriation.--All money deposited into the fund and
7 interest earned on the money in the fund are appropriated to the
8 commission on a continuing basis to award grants under the
9 program.

10 Section 6. Reports.

11 (a) Submittal.--No later than the June 1 that is at least
12 one year after the effective date of this subsection and each
13 June 1 thereafter, the commission shall submit a report on the
14 program to the following:

15 (1) The Governor.

16 (2) The executive director of the commission.

17 (3) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
18 Appropriations Committee of the Senate.

19 (4) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
20 Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives.

21 (5) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the Game
22 and Fisheries Committee of the Senate.

23 (6) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the Game
24 and Fisheries Committee of the House of Representatives.

25 (b) Contents.--Each annual report under this section shall
26 include the following:

27 (1) The number of applications received under the
28 program.

29 (2) The number of grants awarded under the program.

30 (3) The total dollar amount of grants awarded under the

1 program.

2 (4) The amount of each grant awarded under the program.

3 (5) The number of grants denied under the program, in
4 whole or in part, along with the reasons for the denial.

5 (6) The amount remaining in the fund.

6 (7) The use of each grant awarded, including each
7 wildlife rehabilitator's wildlife intake and wildlife
8 rehabilitation efforts made possible as a result of the
9 grant.

10 (8) Any recommendations by the commission to improve the
11 program.

12 (c) Posting.--Each annual report under this section shall be
13 posted on the publicly accessible Internet website of the
14 commission.

15 Section 7. Policies and procedures.

16 The commission shall implement any necessary policy or
17 procedure to administer the program and fund.

18 Section 8. Effective date.

19 This act shall take effect in 60 days.