

Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

PUBLISHED: 3/5/2026 10:37 AM

ORIGINAL

Bill Number: SB344 ER

Patron: Boysko

Bill Title: Mammalian wildlife; premature separation and hybridization prohibited, exceptions.

Bill Summary: Makes it unlawful to prematurely separate any mammalian wildlife offspring born in captivity from the mother prior to the offspring turning four months of age, except that wildlife offspring may be prematurely separated if a medical necessity exists pursuant to a written order from a veterinarian with appropriate species-specific experience and expertise licensed to practice in the Commonwealth. The bill excludes the following from its provisions: (i) agriculture animals; (ii) noncommercial transfers or trades between accredited zoological facilities; (iii) an accredited zoological facility, as defined in the bill, that retains the mammalian wildlife offspring that has already been prematurely separated by such zoological facility; (iv) a person operating under a wildlife rehabilitator permit issued by the Department of Wildlife Resources; (v) the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and (vi) any person rendering emergency neonatal aid, for up to 72 hours, while waiting for a veterinarian to provide treatment. The bill also makes it unlawful to intentionally and for commercial purposes propagate mammalian wildlife of different species, also known as hybridization.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: None

Explanation: This bill involves the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR); however, no budget action is needed.

Fiscal Summary: It is anticipated that any fiscal impacts can be absorbed by DWR within existing appropriations.

Fiscal Analysis: The bill prohibits the intentional commercial breeding of “hybrid” animals of different species and prohibits the premature separation of infant mammals from their mother with exceptions defined in the bill. According to the agency, any fiscal impact resulting from this bill can be absorbed within existing appropriations.

Other: This bill is the companion to HB 112.