



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Committee Bill No. 20

LCO No. 3592



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

***AN ACT PROHIBITING THE IMPORT, SALE AND POSSESSION OF
AFRICAN ELEPHANTS, LIONS, LEOPARDS, BLACK RHINOCEROS,
WHITE RHINOCEROS AND GIRAFFES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2019*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section, "big six African species" means any specimen of any of the
3 following members of the animal kingdom: African elephant
4 (*loxodonta africana*), African lion (*panthera leo*), African leopard
5 (*panthera pardus pardus*), black rhinoceros (*diceros bicornis*), white
6 rhinoceros (*ceratotherium simum cottoni*) and African giraffe (*giraffa*
7 *camelopardalis*), including any part, product or offspring thereof, or
8 the dead body or parts thereof, except fossils, whether or not it is
9 included in a manufactured product or in a food product.

10 (b) No person shall import, possess, sell, offer for sale or transport in
11 this state any big six African species.

12 (c) Any law enforcement officer shall have authority to enforce the
13 provisions of this section and, whenever necessary, to execute any
14 warrant to search for and seize any big six African species imported,

15 possessed, sold, offered for sale or transported in violation of this
16 section.

17 (d) Unless such activity is otherwise prohibited by federal law, the
18 provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall not apply if any of the
19 following conditions exist: (1) Such specimen of a big six African
20 species was located or possessed within the state prior to the effective
21 date of this section and the legal owner of such specimen obtained a
22 certificate of possession from the Commissioner of Energy and
23 Environmental Protection; (2) such specimen of a big six African
24 species is to be part of a temporary or permanent collection of a
25 museum that has a tax exemption from the federal Internal Revenue
26 Service as an educational or scientific institution, provided such
27 specimen is not subsequently sold, offered for sale, traded, bartered or
28 distributed to any other party; or (3) such specimen of a big six African
29 species is distributed directly to a legal beneficiary of a trust or to a
30 legal heir provided: (A) Such specimen was located or possessed by
31 the decedent prior to the effective date of this section, (B) such
32 beneficiary or heir does not subsequently sell, offer for sale, trade,
33 barter or distribute such specimen to any other person, and (C) such
34 beneficiary or heir obtains a certificate of possession from the
35 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection not later than
36 one hundred eighty days after receipt of such specimen.

37 (e) Any specimen of a big six African species and any other property
38 or item used in connection with a violation of the provisions of this
39 section shall be seized and held pending any criminal proceeding
40 pursuant to this section.

41 (f) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be
42 guilty of a felony and fined not more than ten thousand dollars and
43 imprisoned not more than two years, or both.

44 (g) Upon conviction of a person for violation of the provisions of
45 this section or upon the entry of a judgment restraining a defendant
46 from importing, possessing, selling, offering for sale or transporting

47 any specimen of a big six African species on the grounds that such
48 activity is or would be a violation of the provisions of this section, any
49 specimen of a big six African species and any other property or item
50 that is seized and held pursuant to this section shall be forfeited and,
51 upon such forfeiture, destroyed, provided nothing in this subsection
52 shall be construed to require or authorize the destruction of a living
53 specimen of a big six African species.

54 (h) Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to the
55 importing, possessing, selling, offering for sale or transporting of ivory
56 in this state.

57 (i) Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to the
58 importing, transporting or possessing of a live big six African species
59 by any zoological institution or circus.

60 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 26-311 of the general statutes is
61 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
62 *October 1, 2019*):

63 (d) Nothing in section 1 of this act or sections 26-303 to 26-312,
64 inclusive, or any regulations adopted pursuant to said sections shall
65 prohibit transportation through this state of any endangered or
66 threatened species in accordance with the terms of any permit issued
67 under the laws of another state provided the person in possession of
68 an endangered or threatened species can prove legal possession of the
69 species.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	26-311(d)

Statement of Purpose:

To prohibit the importation and trade of big six African species.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.; REP. KUPCHICK, 132nd Dist.

S.B. 20