

# Assembly Bill A-1365 is released from committee

The release of Assembly bill A-1365 from committee is just like the camel getting his nose under our tent. If we don't stop him at this point, we will wind up with the whole camel in the tent.

As sportsmen and woman, we have to understand the bill and know how to address our legislators when we educate them about the pitfalls of this legislation. It is up to us to give them the true and accurate facts on this bill so when it becomes time for them to make their decision, they are able to support our position. Let us try education before we take it to the next level. If we start now, we have time for both courses of action.

The first step is for you to understand the bill and know the facts. Make a phone call to your legislative district and ask for a meeting with your two Assembly people and your Senator. Face to face meetings are the best. Present the facts for your case and answer any questions that they pose. If you don't know the answer to a question, tell them that you will find out the answer and get back to them. Make sure you get the name and phone number for their chief of staff. They are the most important staff member in the office with a direct line to the elected official. If you need a question answered feel free to give me a call and I will attempt to give you an answer, Ed Markowski (609)-402-2039.

1. When the bill was first introduced it included fishing tournaments. That was dropped from the bill because the animal rights people and anti-hunters realized that if they could divide us, we would be easier to conquer.
2. The bill was posted as late as possible in order to handicap us from mounting a response.
3. When we did mount a respectable response, they once again modified their bill with amendments removing deer and field trials from the banned activities. Divide and conquer
4. The bill that passed out of committee now only effects hunters and trappers, that pursue bobcat, coyote, crow, fox, mink, opossum, rabbit, raccoon skunk, squirrel, weasel and woodchuck.
5. All of these animals are currently managed by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife and their trained biologists. Bobcats are a fully protected species.

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6. All of these species are currently protected by New Jersey title 23 laws and game code regulations that limit daily and season bag limits and the length of the hunting and trapping seasons.
7. Three of the species addressed in this bill, Coyote, fox and Raccoon pose an increasing threat to our human population as their populations continue to expand.
8. These three species accounts for over 80% of the confirmed rabies cases reported in new jersey.
9. Since 2019 there have been over 30 attacks of people and their pets by coyotes. **(There is a fact sheet attached dealing with just coyote attacks)** Please familiarize yourself with that report so that you can use its facts when you address your legislator.
10. Thirty years ago, the coyote population in New Jersey was estimated at 100 animals. Today the population estimate is over 3,000.
11. Coyotes, foxes and raccoons are underutilized species with expanding populations. The use of contests, governed by our current laws and regulations, are an important management tool that allows our biologists to meet their management goals for these three species. To do away with this tool would decrease their harvest and hamper the management of these species.
12. Raccoons and rabies. Between 1984 and 2016 there were 7,459 cases of confirmed rabies in new Jersey as reported by the NJ Department of Health. Of those 7,459 cases, 5,413 were found to be in raccoons. During this period raccoons accounted for 73% of all verifies rabies cases in NJ. The number of rabid racoons in new Jersey continues to increase.
13. Somethings that is current: June 15, 2021. Three people attacked in Jackson New Jersey, Ocean County by a fox. One of the people attacked and bitten on the leg was a 4-year-old girl. Only quick action by her brother saved her from further injuries.

You can view the bill at [A1365 \(state.nj.us\)](https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/A1500/1365_I1.HTM)  
[https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/A1500/1365\\_I1.HTM](https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/A1500/1365_I1.HTM)