



SUPPORT

A. 4243/S. 4198 (Carroll/Comrie)

AN ACT to enact the "New York wildlife crossing act"

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports A. 4243/S. 4198 (Carroll/Comrie), which directs the department of transportation to identify sites along all highways, thruways, and parkways in the state where wildlife crossings are most needed to increase public safety and improve habitat connectivity; and to create a priority list of wildlife crossing opportunity areas where federal grant monies may be available to implement the top five projects identified.

Across New York State the likelihood and danger of colliding with wildlife while driving is ever present. This is because major roads and other forms of transportation infrastructure subdivide animal populations and fragment their habitats. Losing access to large areas of their living space makes it much harder for many animals to hunt and forage for food, find mates and carry on their genetic legacies. Urban sprawl has made this issue even worse and as we expand and build into more and more wildlife habitats the issue of animal crossing on roads will only increase.

A. 4871/S. 1535 would require the Department of Transportation to identify the most significant road segments that threaten interconnection between vehicles and wildlife and to come up with a list of the top ten wildlife crossing locations. By constructing pathways for wildlife to safely travel between major thoroughfares we will help to reduce the number of collisions while simultaneously helping to connect wildlife to their habitat. For these reasons, the New York League of Conservation Voters urges passage of A. 4243/S. 4198.

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