

## CHAPTER 17

AN ACT concerning diamondback terrapins and supplementing P.L.1973, c.309 (C.23:2A-1 et seq.).

**BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

C.23:2A-4.1 Diamondback terrapin designated nongame indigenous species.

1. a. Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, the diamondback terrapin shall be designated as a nongame indigenous species and shall be subject to the laws, rules, and regulations governing the importation, care, possession, and breeding of that type of animal in the State.

b. Any diamondback terrapin, including any nest or egg thereof, shall be protected by the Department of Environmental Protection, any other State agency, and any local governmental entity in the same manner and to the same extent as any nongame species of reptile indigenous to the State that is protected by "The Endangered and Nongame Species Conservation Act," P.L.1973, c.309 (C.23:2A-1 et seq.), any other applicable State law, or any rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto.

c. The commissioner shall investigate populations, distribution, habitat needs, limiting factors, and other biological and ecological data concerning the State's diamondback terrapin population to determine management measures necessary for their continued ability to sustain themselves successfully. On the basis of such determinations, the commissioner shall develop management programs which shall be designed to insure the continued ability of the State's diamondback terrapin population to perpetuate themselves successfully.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved July 15, 2016.