



**House Agriculture and Forestry Reported Substitute
for HB448**

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to conservation; Alabama Good Samaritan
Wildlife Rehabilitation Act established to authorize
individuals to provide care to injured or orphaned wild birds
and animals under certain conditions.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as
the Alabama Good Samaritan Wildlife Rehabilitation Act.

Section 2. (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary,
an individual may in good faith provide care or treatment to
sustain life or reduce disability to any injured, orphaned, or
debilitated wild bird or animal that is not federally
protected or otherwise endangered so that the organism may be
returned to the wild subject to all of the following:

(1) The individual shall provide to the Wildlife and
Freshwater Fisheries Division of the Department of
Conservation and Natural Resources the dates on which care or
treatment begins and ends.

(2) The length of care or treatment of a wild bird or
animal may not exceed six months.

(3) A wild bird or animal shall be returned to the



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29 general area where it was collected upon release.

30 (b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to do
31 either of the following:

32 (1) Authorize an individual engaged in wildlife
33 rehabilitation to engage in the practice of veterinary
34 medicine as defined in Section 34-29-61, Code of Alabama 1975.

35 (2) Exempt an individual from the crime of cruelty to
36 animals as provided in Section 13A-11-14, Code of Alabama
37 1975.

38 (c) The Department of Conservation and Natural
39 Resources shall adopt rules to administer this section.

40 Section 3. This act shall become effective on October
41 1, 2025.