

# HB476 INTRODUCED



1 HB476  
2 G3IK822-1  
3 By Representatives Harrison, Butler, Stringer, Yarbrough,  
4 Paschal, Rehm, Whorton, Underwood, Mooney, Fincher, Myrex,  
5 Gidley  
6 RFD: Economic Development and Tourism  
7 First Read: 19-Feb-26



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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing rule, persons must have a permit issued by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to possess protected wild birds or animals.

This bill would provide that individuals may care for injured or orphaned wild birds and animals that are not federally protected.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to conservation; to establish the Alabama Good Samaritan Wildlife Rehabilitation Act 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. (a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the Alabama Good Samaritan Wildlife Rehabilitation Act.

(b) 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



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29 protected or otherwise endangered so that the bird or animal  
30 may be returned to the wild subject to all of the following:

31 (1) The length of care or treatment of a wild bird or  
32 animal may not exceed six months, except the length of care  
33 for beavers may not exceed three years.

34 (2) A wild bird or animal shall be returned upon  
35 release to the general area from where it was collected.

36 (3) A raccoon, skunk, bat, fox, coyote, or bobcat shall  
37 be vaccinated for rabies before being released if a veterinary  
38 facility that treats such animals is within five miles of  
39 where the animal is housed.

40 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to do  
41 any of the following:

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

45 (2) Exempt an individual from the crime of cruelty to  
46 animals as provided in Section 13A-11-14, Code of Alabama  
47 1975.

48 (3) Authorize an individual to keep or consider a wild  
49 bird or animal as a pet.

50 (d) A municipality may adopt ordinances further  
51 providing for the care or treatment of wild birds and animals  
52 not inconsistent with this section or state or federal law.

53 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October  
54 1, 2026.