

MAR 16 2026

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THIS BODY TO INTRODUCE AND PASS LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH STRICT LIABILITY FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO KEEP, HARBOR, OR FEED CERTAIN ANIMALS IN A MANNER THAT RESULTS IN DAMAGE TO PROPERTY.

1 WHEREAS, the proliferation of feral and free-ranging
2 chickens in residential and urban communities across the State
3 is a nuisance that disrupts residents living in these areas; and
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5 WHEREAS, chickens were once limited to rural environs, but
6 now unchecked feeding and harboring of these animals by some
7 residents have led to significant property damage, neighborhood
8 disputes, and the spread of nuisance conditions that erode the
9 health, safety, and quiet enjoyment of the State's communities;
10 and
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12 WHEREAS, abundant feral chicken populations tend to
13 coalesce into feral colonies and produce negative impacts
14 similar to those of feral ungulates, including goats, sheep, and
15 pigs, and felids; and
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17 WHEREAS, such colonies have grown exponentially, creating a
18 wide range of problems for farmers, ranchers, property owners,
19 and users of transportation infrastructure, among many others;
20 and
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22 WHEREAS, these feral populations have disrupted native
23 ecosystems that evolved for millions of years without these
24 species present; and
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26 WHEREAS, state law establishes liability when domesticated
27 animals, such as dogs or livestock, cause injury or trespass
28 upon the property of others; and
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30 WHEREAS, despite their ability to damage gardens,
31 landscaping, and private property, there is currently no
32 comparable statute addressing the damage caused by chickens,
33 ungulates, and felids that are intentionally kept, harbored, or
34 fed by individuals; and



