

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER  
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

**Title of Rule:** Rules and Regulations Governing Wildlife Rehabilitation

**Rule Identifier:** 250-RICR-60-00-1

**Rulemaking Action:** Direct Final Amendment

**Important Dates:**

Date of Public Notice: 07/27/2021

End of Public Comment: 08/26/2021

**Authority for this Rulemaking:**

R.I. Gen. Laws Chapters 42-17.1, 42-17.6, R.I. Gen. Laws 20-1-4, 20-1-18, 20-1-22, 20-37-3

**Summary of Rulemaking Action:**

The proper care of sick, orphaned, displaced, or injured wild animals requires special knowledge, skills and facilities not possessed by the general public. Specially trained individuals, collectively called wildlife rehabilitators provide for the care or injured, sick, and orphaned wildlife with the goal of returning them to the wild. The purpose of the regulations is to establish the standards under which wildlife rehabilitators may be permitted to temporarily possess wildlife protected by the Department under RI Gen. Laws Chapter 20-1, and to insure the safety and welfare of those animals under their care as well as the health and safety of themselves and the general public.

**Additional Information and Comments:**

If no formal objection is received on or before August 26, 2021, Department of Environmental Management will file the Amendment without opportunity for public comment..

Objections should be addressed to:

Ashley Schipritt,  
Department of Environmental Management  
3 Fort Wetherill Road  
Jamestown, RI 02835  
ashley.schipritt@dem.ri.gov

**Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:**

When the regulations were reworked the definition for 'Sponsor' was changed and the old definition wasn't removed, this is to remove the old language and also the number for a sponsor to assist was increased.

In the development of the proposed rule/amendment consideration was given to: (1) alternative approaches; (2) overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory provisions; and (3) significant economic impact on small business. No alternative approach, duplication, or overlap was identified based upon available information.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation see agency contact person above.