

## **S.F. No. 612 – Taking Turtles Provisions Modifications (As Amended by the A-1 Amendment)**

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**Section 1 [Repeal of Turtle Seller License Fees]** repeals language that sets a fee for turtle seller’s licenses and turtle seller’s apprentice licenses to reflect the fact that these licenses will no longer be issued if the bill becomes law.

**Section 2 [Recreational Turtle License Required to Take Turtles]** requires a recreational turtle license to take, possess, or transport turtles. This is in addition to an existing requirement to possess an angling license for these purposes.

This section also provides that turtles taken from the wild are for personal use only and may not be resold.

**Section 3 [Exemptions to License Requirements]** repeals several existing exemptions from the requirement to possess licenses:

- Repeals an exemption that allowed a person to buy turtles for resale at a retail outlet
- Repeals an exemption that allowed a nonresident to purchase turtles from a licensed turtle seller for export out of state

This section also adds several new exemptions to the license requirements:

- A person does not need the licenses described above when buying turtles from a licensed aquatic farm or licensed private fish hatchery for resale at a retail outlet or restaurant.
- A person does not need the licenses described above when the person is under age 16 and possesses up to 3 snapping or western painted turtles for personal use that are within allowable length and width requirements.

- A person with an aquatic farm license with a turtle endorsement or a private fish hatchery license with a turtle endorsement does not need the licenses described above to sell, obtain, possess, transport, and propagate turtles and turtle eggs.

Finally, this section prohibits turtles possessed without a license under one of the exemptions in this subdivision from being released back into the wild.

**Section 4 [Prohibited Taking Methods]** modifies which methods of taking turtles as follows:

- Repeals language that allowed a person with a turtle seller's license to take turtles using floating traps. Taking turtles by trap would be completely prohibited once this section becomes effective.
- Repeals language that allowed persons to take turtles with commercial equipment in accordance with rules adopted by the commissioner of natural resources. Taking turtles by commercial equipment would be completely prohibited once this section becomes effective.

**Section 5 [Turtle Species Limits]** Provides that the possession limit on western painted turtles does not apply to a person who is exempt from licensure requirements. This section also makes technical changes that repeal language that is no longer needed.

**Section 6 [No Renewal or Transfer of Turtle Seller's Licenses]** prohibits the commissioner of natural resources from renewing or transferring a turtle seller's license after January 1, 2024. Current law already prohibits the issuance of turtle seller's licenses after August 1, 2002, and allows existing licenses to be transferred only once and only to a child.

**Section 7 [Repealer]** repeals language authorizing the issuance of turtle seller's licenses and turtle seller's apprentice licenses and makes various conforming changes.

**Section 8 [Effective Date]** makes the act effective January 1, 2024.