



NEW YORK BILL RESTRICTING BIRD SALES PASSES COMMITTEE

The Issue.

The Assembly version of companion bills in the New York legislature to ban the sale of unweaned birds has passed the Assembly Committee on Agriculture. The legislation would prohibit pet dealers from selling any bird that has not been “fully weaned.” [Assembly Bill 1767](#) was passed by the Committee on Agriculture and has now been sent to the [Codes Committee](#). The companion bill, [Senate Bill 1253](#), has not yet been acted on by the [Committee on Agriculture](#) to which it was originally assigned following its introduction in that chamber.

The Impact.

As currently crafted, this legislation would prohibit all pet dealers from selling birds that have not been weaned. The measure defines a weaned bird for purposes of this law as one “that does not require hand-feeding or animal assistance to sustain at least ninety percent of its own weight at the time of sale.” Pet dealers would be required to document the weight of any hand-fed bird under one year of age at the time of sale, and note the weight on the sales receipt.

Under existing law, the term pet dealer in New York applies only to retailers. However, a number of bills have been introduced in recent years, including the current session, which would expand that term to include persons selling at wholesale. If such changes are enacted, this ban on the sale of unweaned birds would apply not only to pet stores selling birds to the public but also pet dealers selling birds at wholesale (to pet stores), where persons trained in hand-feeding of birds often wean them prior to sale to the public.

PIJAC Position.

Responsible pet dealers do not sell and deliver unweaned birds to persons who are not properly experienced in their care, though pet stores may sell unweaned birds to buyers with the commitment to deliver the birds at such time as they are properly weaned. PIJAC opposes an outright ban on the sale of unweaned birds without provisions for persons who are trained to care for such birds.

Recommended Action.

PIJAC is currently discussing amendments to this legislation with the sponsors, which would permit the sale of unweaned birds to those who have the knowledge and experience to properly care for such birds. PIJAC will issue an updated *PetAlert* when amendments are published, or if there is any other change in bill status.

If you wish to provide input on this legislation, or have questions, contact PIJAC’s Michael Maddox via email at Michael@pijac.org or by phone at 202-452-1525 ext 106. You may also visit the [Breaking News](#) page of PIJAC’s website for updates on this bill and other initiatives impacting pet owners and the pet trade.