

ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2949**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 3, 2016

The Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2949.

This bill provides the protection afforded by "The Endangered and Nongame Species Conservation Act" to the diamondback terrapin.

The bill designates the diamondback terrapin as a nongame indigenous species subject to the same laws, rules, and regulations governing other nongame indigenous reptiles in the State. As a result of this designation, it would no longer be legal to catch or take diamondback terrapin in New Jersey. The bill also requires the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to investigate biological and ecological data concerning the State's diamondback terrapin population and determine management measures necessary for the continued viability of the State's diamondback terrapin population.