

# PROHIBIT STATE'S PARTICIPATION IN ARTIFICIAL PHEASANT PROPAGATION

An act that prohibits the state's participation in artificial pheasant propagation activities; closes any state-owned or operated pheasant production facility.

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<b>REFERRED TO:</b> ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, A/M Glick, Chair	<b>REFERRED TO:</b> ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

## BACKGROUND:

- Every year the state-run Reynolds Game Farm hatches tens of thousands of Ring-Necked Pheasants in order to increase recreational pheasant hunting opportunities and to promote participation in shooting sports in New York State.
- These birds are not native to New York; they are bred at the Reynolds Game farm and released specifically to be hunted on state and private properties. This artificial pheasant propagation program provides no conservational purpose, and it causes unjustifiable suffering and death to animals.
- This program is not meant to restore wild pheasant populations, but to introduce hunting to children as young as 12.
- The ring-necked pheasants are bred in captivity. Their release into areas occurs abruptly, and these animals find themselves disoriented and maladjusted in an environment they have never known before and in which they have no survival experience.
- The pheasants are used just because they are easy targets, making this hunting activity even more ethically troublesome. If not shot, the birds will die from exposure to severe weather conditions, predators or starvation. Approximately 70,000 pheasants are bred and killed, including adults and day-old chicks.

## SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BILL:

- This bill prohibits New York State's participation in any pheasant propagation programs; close any state-owned or operated pheasant production facilities.
- It shall be unlawful for any department or division of this state, or any political subdivision to participate in or to promote the hatching, breeding, rearing, propagating, possessing, purchasing, distributing, transporting, selling, exchanging, or giving away of artificially propagated pheasants or to support, financially or in any other manner through the Conservation Fund or any other source, any program or activity involving artificially propagated pheasants.
- Any State money, including from the Conservation Fund, should not be used for a program that serves no conservational purpose and harms animals. Any state-owned or any type of operating pheasant production facility shall be closed.

