

# Law Summary

## Assembly Bill 1319 Protected Species: California Endangered Species Act

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# AB 1319 Protected Species: California Endangered Species Act

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## Summary

AB 1319 aims to further restrict the capture, sale, trade, transfer, or otherwise possession of any wildlife or plant that has been declared endangered in and by the State of California. The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and the Fish and Game Code make these possessions a punishable offense.

The Fish and Game Commission, in collaboration with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, is required under AB 1319 to develop and consider adopting a list of endangered or threatened species native to California in the event of an emergency. AB 1319 will require the Commission to begin a status review for any California native species added to the list of threatened or endangered species.

## General Purpose of the Law

AB 1319 will return protections of “endangered” and “threatened” species under CESA to block efforts by the federal government to delist species previously protected under the Endangered Species Act as determined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on January 19, 2025.

AB 1319 will also implement local programs to ensure that protections of endangered or threatened species are being enforced. The Fish and Game Commission will publicly release the statuses of any California native species listed as endangered or threatened. Any further actions from the federal government that inhibit protections will be evaluated by the Commission and emergency regulations drafted by the Commission and Department of Fish and Wildlife will be implemented.

## What the Law Does

- **Authorizes State-Level Species Protection:** The Fish and Game Commission shall consider adopting a list of California native species for additional protections if federal protections are reduced.
- **Allows Supplementary State Requirements:** The Commission may apply species protection measures that are not fulfilled under existing federal listings.
- **Requires Quarterly Federal Monitoring Reports:** The Department of Fish and Wildlife shall report to the Commission on a quarterly basis any federal proclamations that may necessitate the implementation of an emergency protection plan.
- **Ensures Public Notification:** Interested or affected parties shall be notified when an emergency protection plan is enacted.
- **Exempts Certain Activities From CEQA:** The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) shall not apply when the Department of Fish and Wildlife authorizes possession of endangered or threatened species.

## Expected Outcomes

Improved responsiveness to federal policy changes; strengthened protections for vulnerable native species; timely implementation of emergency conservation measures; increased transparency for affected stakeholders; and reduced administrative barriers for authorized species management activities.

## Cost


The Senate committee estimated this bill could cost \$7–9 million per year to implement. The \$7 million figure assumes only about 10% of federally listed species would need emergency state listing in any given year.

## Where to Learn More

Official Law Text: <https://legiscan.com/CA/text/AB1319/id/3217328>

Importance of Protecting Endangered Species: <https://www.fws.gov/story/why-save-species>





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