

No. 37

AN ACT

HB 1264

Regulating the importation and sale of live turtles and providing for permits to be issued by the Department of Health.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. (a) No person shall bring, cause to be brought, or transport any live turtle into the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, unless such turtle or lot of turtles is accompanied with a permit issued by the Department of Health or other agency authorized by the Department of Health to issue a permit.

(b) A permit shall be issued upon request if there is adequate bacteriological proof that the turtles are free of salmonellae.

(c) Adequate bacteriological proof as used in this act shall consist of a statement issued by the chief public health official or his designated representative of the state from which the lot of turtles is shipped, certifying that the turtles have been found free of salmonellae based upon laboratory examination of six consecutive specimens taken at intervals of not less than three days found to be negative for salmonellae in a laboratory approved for this purpose by the health authorities of the jurisdiction from which the turtles originate.

Section 2. In those instances where the turtles originate within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, a permit may be issued if adequate bacteriological proof that such turtles are free of salmonellae contamination is submitted to the Department of Health. Adequate bacteriological proof as used in this act shall consist of six consecutive specimens taken at intervals of not less than three days found to be negative for salmonellae in a laboratory approved for this purpose by the Secretary of Health. The results of such examinations shall be submitted on a form provided by the Department of Health.

Section 3. The Secretary of Health or his representative or any local health officer or his representative may at any time take samples of tank water or any other appropriate samples from turtles offered for sale and order the immediate destruction of any turtles found contaminated with salmonellae.

Section 4. Lots of turtles may be divided into sub-lots, provided a true copy of original adequate bacteriological proof shall accompany each sub-lot of turtles.

Lot of turtles means a group of turtles obtained by person or firm obtaining original statement or certificate, from a single source on the same day. No duplicate numbers for different lots may be used by same person or firm. Each group shall be given a lot number and said number

cannot be reused or duplicated until June 1 of each calendar year.

Single source means turtles gathered from the same hatchery and/or turtles originating from the same breeding pond in the event there is more than one breeding pond operated by same person or firm. Single source as used herein to be defined as: if collected from the wilds, those that can be gathered along no more than three hundred feet of shore or waterline during a twelve-hour period, by the same person.

Section 5. No original shipper or transshipper shall mix any turtles from any numbered lot with those from any other numbered lot.

Section 6. All shipping boxes or containers shall be new and unused prior to the packing of any turtles affected by this act.

Section 7. Instructions designating the proper care and treatment of live turtles shall accompany each retail sale of any turtle and shall be distributed to the purchaser by the seller thereof at the time of the sale.

Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 1972.

APPROVED—The 3rd day of March, A. D. 1972.

MILTON J. SHAPP

The foregoing is a true and correct copy of Act of the General Assembly No. 37.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C. McLaughlin Tucker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "C" and "T".

*Secretary of the Commonwealth.*