



a program of  
ANIMAL PROTECTION  
LEAGUE of NEW JERSEY

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# A4641 - "New Bear Feeding Ban" Fact Sheet



*The four closed bins on the left are bear-resistant;  
the fifth, an open can is not.*

## Keeping bears away from unnatural food sources.

Unsecured garbage is the number one reason why bears are attracted to neighborhoods, which leads to homeowner complaints. These complaints often result in the killing of individual bears. The Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) uses these complaints to justify bear hunting.

Enforcement of the current black bear feeding law on the books is poor. Law enforcement has problems with the issuance of warnings to ambiguous language.

**Assemblyman Raj Mukherji (D-33) introduced a new bill to strengthen the current feeding ban law, which will reduce complaints and incidents with black bears.**

### The new bill (A4641):

- Includes unintentional and intentional feeding or baiting of bear and deer. Whether it's intentional or not, feeding bears leads to food conditioning, which contributes to human-bear conflicts;
- Incentivizes enforcement by allowing the penalties to go to the municipality, not DFW.
- Exempts wildlife rehabbers; agricultural or horticultural activities; birdfeeders between 4/1 – 11/30; shelters; approved TNR colonies; feeding companion animals; and federal, state, or local authorities that require feeding for scientific purpose.

### What's the issue with feeding or baiting?

Baiting for bears or deer changes bears' behavior and leads to food conditioning and habituation to humans. Artificial feeding contributes to:

- potential conflicts and property damage;
- alterations in bear behavior and foraging habits;
- increased or sustained reproductive rate, physical size, distribution, and numbers.

Moreover, baiting has significant negative impacts on a wide range of species and contributes to forest degeneration. Baiting:

- concentrates deer and other species, who then feed on natural vegetation in the area;
- attracts coyotes, raccoons, opossums, and rodents, thereby increasing predation on ground-nesting birds;
- contributes to the spread of wildlife disease and exotic and invasive plants;
- increases automobile-deer collisions;
- increases illegal activity;
- improves reproduction in white-tailed deer.

## Let's Become a Bear Smart State!

### **CURRENT ACTION NEEDED**

Urge your two state  
Assembly members to co-  
sponsor and support A4641.