

HOUSE No. 409

By Mr. Haigis of Wellesley (by request), petition of Loring E. McGovern and others for legislation to regulate further the trapping of certain animals. Conservation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-Nine.

AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE TRAPPING OF CERTAIN ANIMALS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The first paragraph of section 68 of
2 chapter 131 of the General Laws, as amended by
3 section 3 of chapter 615 of the acts of 1948, is hereby
4 further amended by striking out, in lines 6 and 11, the
5 word "fifteenth" and inserting in place thereof, in
6 each instance, the word:— first, — so as to read as
7 follows:— Except as otherwise provided in this
8 chapter, no person shall hunt or trap, or have in
9 possession the living or dead bodies of, minks, otters,
10 muskrats, opossums or raccoons; provided, that such
11 mammals, other than opossums or raccoons, may be
12 taken by hunting or trapping between November
13 first and the following March first, both dates inclu-
14 sive, and that opossums or raccoons may be taken
15 with the aid or by the use of dogs or guns between

16 October tenth and the following January first, both
17 dates inclusive, and by trapping between November
18 first and the following January first, both dates in-
19 clusive. No person shall remove or attempt to re-
20 move a raccoon from any hole in the ground, stone
21 wall, from within any ledge, or from under any stone
22 or from any hole in any log or tree. Not more than
23 two raccoons shall be taken during any period from
24 sunset of one day to sunset of the following day by
25 any one person, or three raccoons by two or more
26 persons hunting in one party, and not more than ten
27 raccoons shall be taken by any person in any open
28 season. No person, except as provided in sections
29 fourteen and ninety-three, shall hunt or possess a
30 beaver at any time.

1 SECTION 2. The second paragraph of said section
2 68, as so amended, is hereby further amended by
3 striking out clause (b) and clause (c) and inserting in
4 place thereof the following: —

5 (b) To trap between March second and the follow-
6 ing October thirty-first, both dates inclusive.

7 (c) To possess or have under his control a trap on
8 the land of another where fur-bearing mammals might
9 be found, between March second and the following
10 October thirty-first, both dates inclusive.

1 SECTION 3. Said second paragraph of said section
2 68, as so amended, is hereby further amended by
3 striking out clause (k) and inserting in place thereof
4 the following: —

5 (k) To trap before six o'clock, ante meridian, on
6 the opening day of the season, to wit, November first.