

By Mr. Greene of Billerica, petition of William G. Greene, Jr., and others relative to the control of coyotes. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

William G. Greene, Jr.	Robert A. O'Leary
Matthew C. Patrick	Richard T. Moore
Anthony J. Verga	John W. Scibak
Viriato Manuel deMacedo	Steven M. Walsh
Barbara A. L'Italien	Mark J. Carron

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE CONTROL OF COYOTES.

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

1 Chapter 131 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as appearing
2 in the 2002 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the
3 following new section after 80A:—

4 Section 80B. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 80A,
5 the director, or persons permitted by the director, may use the
6 most effective means possible for the purpose of capturing a
7 coyote that presents an imminent threat to human health or safety;
8 provided that concurrence with the mayor, city council, or the
9 board of selectmen, whatever the case may be, is achieved in the
10 city or town where action is deemed by the director to be neces-
11 sary.

12 The provisions of sections 80A shall not apply to the use of
13 prohibited devices, by the director or persons permitted by the
14 director, for legitimate scientific research projects.

15 Nothing in this section shall be construed to allow the use of
16 the steel jaw leghold trap, and/or snares.

17 The director shall promulgate regulations and report annually to
18 the Joint Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture on the
19 frequency and location of such imminent threats, the criteria used
20 to determine an imminent threat and the number and method used
21 to take coyotes.

22 The Division, as part of its responsibility under this section,
23 shall be required to provide information to local Boards of Health
24 for dissemination to educate citizens about the ways in which they
25 can participate in avoiding the presence of coyotes and other
26 wildlife in their neighborhoods.