

By Mr. Bickford of Berlin (by request), petition of the Mass. Farm Bureau Federation and William A. Carey that the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife be directed to make an investigation relative to crop and farm animal losses within the Commonwealth. Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty.

RESOLVE FOR AN INVESTIGATION AND STUDY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE RELATIVE TO CROP AND ANIMAL LOSSES BY FARMERS.

1 *Resolved*, That the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife is
2 hereby authorized and directed to investigate the amount of crop
3 and farm animal losses within the Commonwealth caused by var-
4 ious protected species of birds and animals and to develop a
5 reimbursement program for owners of crops and farm animals
6 who suffer such losses.

7 Said department shall determine methods for prompt payment
8 of reimbursements for such losses.

9 For the purposes of this act, the Department shall, after consul-
10 tation with the Department of Food and Agriculture, the College
11 of Food and Natural Resources at the University of Massachu-
12 setts, and persons actively engaged in agriculture within the Com-
13 monwealth develop a method for standardized valuations of farm
14 animals.

15 Said department shall review all reimbursement programs pres-
16 ently established for similar losses to determine their effectiveness.

17 Said department, during its investigation shall consider losses
18 caused by black bear and certain canine predators, referred to as
19 "eastern coyotes" or "coy dogs."

20 Said department shall report along with its recommendations,
21 its findings to the Great and General Court on or before July 1,
22 1980.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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