

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2288

H. P. 1809 House of Representatives, January 3, 1974
Referred to Committee on Legal Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Brawn of Oakland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FOUR

**AN ACT Relating to Damage to Beehives, Bee Colonies or Honey by
Wild Animals.**

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 7, § 3654, additional. Title 7 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 3654 to read as follows:

§ 3654. Damage to beehives by wild animals

Whenever any beehives, bee colonies or honey, owned by a resident of this State, are damaged or destroyed by wild animals, the owner may present evidence of such damage or destruction and may make complaint thereof to the mayor of a city or to one of the municipal officers of the town or plantation where such damage was done within 24 hours after he has knowledge of same. Thereafter, such claims shall be investigated, reported and adjusted or approved in the same manner as claims under section 3652.

Payments by the State under this section shall not exceed \$40 for a single beehive or bee colony damaged or destroyed during the months of April and May and shall not exceed \$50 for a single beehive or bee colony damaged or destroyed during the months of June, July, August and September. No payment shall be made for damage or destruction of beehives, bee colonies or honey during any other months.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture the sum of \$2,500 to carry out the purposes

of this Act. Appropriations under this section shall not lapse but shall carry forward to the next fiscal year. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1974-75
AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF	
All Other	\$2,500

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to provide an administrative procedure for reimbursement of owners of beehives damaged or destroyed by wild animals. Under the existing procedure, the Legislature must consider each such claim on an individual basis.