

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 504**

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H. P. 389

House of Representatives, February 2, 1971

Referred to Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Cooney of Webster.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-ONE

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**AN ACT Repealing the Bounty on Bobcat.**

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

**R. S., T. 12, § 2901, repealed.** Section 2901 of Title 12 of the Revised Statutes, as last amended by chapter 198 of 1967, is repealed.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The major reason given for continuance of the bobcat bounty has been protection of the state's deer herd. While bobcats can and do kill deer, studies conducted by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game show that the availability of food and shelter during the winter is the limiting factor controlling the size of the herd. In the more heavily populated sections of the state free running dogs kill many more deer than bobcats and at times constitute a serious problem.

Furthermore, it has been demonstrated time after time that bounties do not appreciably reduce the populations of those species which they are levied against. The Maine bobcat is no exception. During the past 5 years the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game has spent an average of \$12,000 annually on bobcat bounties. In the future this money could be used for more substantial projects. It is not felt that sport hunting for bobcats would appreciably diminish with removal of the bounty. In fact some hunters have expressed the opinion that elimination of the bounty would increase the quality of the sport.