

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

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Legislative Document

No. 450

H.P. 360

House of Representatives, February 1, 2001

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**An Act to Eliminate the Coyote Snaring Program.**

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Reference to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative BULL of Freeport.

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

2  
4       **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7013, sub-§7-A**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 408, §1, is amended to read:

6       **7-A. Animal damage control.** The coordination of animal  
8       damage control functions throughout the State, including  
10       supplemental assistance for the control of ~~coyotes--and--other~~  
12       nuisance wildlife which that exceeds normal funding and staffing  
14       level within the department;

16       **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §7035, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 636,  
18       §1, is further amended to read:

20       **3. Destruction of wildlife.** Whenever the commissioner  
22       determines it necessary for the accomplishment of the  
24       commissioner's statutory duties, the commissioner may issue  
26       permits authorizing persons to assist the commissioner in the  
28       taking and destruction of any wildlife. ~~Pursuant--to--section~~  
30       ~~7013,--subsection--7-A,--the--commissioner--shall--maintain--a--coyote~~  
32       ~~control--program--as--follows.~~

34       ~~A.--The--commissioner--may--employ--qualified--persons--to--serve~~  
36       ~~as--agents--of--the--department--for--purposes--of--coyote--control.~~  
38       ~~These--agents--must--be--trained--by--the--department--in--animal~~  
40       ~~damage--control--techniques--and--must--be--utilized--by--the~~  
42       ~~department--to--perform--coyote--control--duties--in--areas--where~~  
44       ~~predation--by--coyotes--is--posing--a--threat--to--deer--or--other~~  
46       ~~wildlife.--Each--agent--shall--execute--a--cooperative--agreement~~  
48       ~~with--the--department--specifying--the--conditions--and~~  
50       ~~limitations--of--the--agent's--responsibilities--as--an--agent,~~  
52       ~~including--any--terms--for--reimbursement--of--expenses--or--payment~~  
54       ~~of--wages.~~

56       ~~B.--Agents--must--be--trained--in--the--use--of--snares--and--must--be~~  
58       ~~deployed--in--the--unorganized--townships--to--control--coyotes~~  
60       ~~during--the--winter--months.--All--snaring--must--be--carried--out~~  
62       ~~under--the--direction--of--department--officials--and--with--the~~  
64       ~~knowledge--of--the--local--game--warden.--All--areas--of--snaring~~  
66       ~~activity--must--be--adequately--posted.~~

68       ~~C.--Agents--may--be--utilized--for--the--benefit--of--agricultural~~  
70       ~~interests--provided--that--the--department--is--reimbursed~~  
72       ~~annually--for--the--cost--of--these--efforts--by--the--Department--of~~  
74       ~~Agriculture,--Feed--and--Rural--Resources--from--funds~~  
76       ~~specifically--appropriated--or--otherwise--made--available--to--the~~  
78       ~~Department--of--Agriculture,--Food--and--Rural--Resources--for--that~~  
80       ~~purpose.~~

82       **Sec. 3. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated  
84       from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

2

2001-02

2002-03

4

**INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE,  
DEPARTMENT OF**

6

8

**Resource Management Services -  
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife**

10

All Other

(\$15,700)

(\$15,700)

12

Deappropriates funding used  
to pay agents for the snaring  
of coyotes.

14

16

**SUMMARY**

18

20

This bill repeals the statutory authorization for the coyote  
snaring program and deappropriates funding associated with the  
direct costs of the program.