

HOUSE No. 761

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

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

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 in
2 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, the
5 director, or persons permitted by the director, may use the most
6 effective means possible for the purpose of capturing a coyote that
7 presents an imminent threat to human health or safety; provided that
8 concurrence with the mayor, city council, or the board of selectmen,
9 whatever the case may be, is achieved in the city or town where
10 action is deemed by the director to be necessary.

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

14 Nothing in this section shall be construed to allow the use of the
15 steel jaw leghold trap, and/or snares. The director shall promulgate
16 regulations and report annually to the Joint Committee on Natural
17 Resources and Agriculture on the frequency and location of such
18 imminent threats, the criteria used to determine an imminent threat
19 and the number and method used to take coyotes. The Division, as
20 part of its responsibility under this section, shall be required to pro-
21 vide information to local Boards of Health for dissemination to edu-
22 cate citizens about the ways in which they can participate in
23 avoiding the presence of coyotes and other wildlife in their
24 neighborhoods.