

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 762**

By Mr. Greene of Billerica, petition of William G. Greene, Jr. relative to authorizing the Department of Fish and Game to conduct a pilot program to determine ways of achieving a balanced Beaver population. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO PROPERTY DAMAGE CAUSED BY BEAVER.

*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 after section  
3 80A:—

4 Section 80B. Notwithstanding the provisions of c. 131 §80A, the  
5 division of fisheries and wildlife within the department of fish and  
6 game is hereby authorized to conduct a limited pilot program to  
7 determine the most effective way to achieve a healthy and balanced  
8 population of beaver. The program shall be limited to the following  
9 counties:— Berkshire; Essex; Franklin; Hampshire; Middlesex; and  
10 Worcester.

11 The division shall promulgate such rules and regulations for the  
12 implementation and administration of this section. Records of the  
13 number of animals taken, the number of public nuisance complaints  
14 received, the method of taking, and the location of taking, shall be  
15 maintained by the division and reported annually to the Joint Com-  
16 mittee on Natural Resources and Agriculture. Nothing in this section  
17 shall be construed to allow the use of the steel jaw leghold trap,  
18 padded leghold trap, and/or snares.

19 The pilot program and department powers enumerated in this  
20 section shall expire on January 1, 2007.