

HOUSE No. 977

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

David K. Muradian, Jr.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to critical wildlife habitat management.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>David K. Muradian, Jr.</i>	<i>9th Worcester</i>	<i>2/19/2021</i>
<i>Joseph D. McKenna</i>	<i>18th Worcester</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Michael J. Soter</i>	<i>8th Worcester</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Norman J. Orrall</i>	<i>12th Bristol</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>	<i>3/18/2021</i>
<i>Paul A. Schmid, III</i>	<i>8th Bristol</i>	<i>3/19/2021</i>
<i>Mathew J. Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>	<i>3/19/2021</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/22/2021</i>
<i>Paul F. Tucker</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>	<i>4/5/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 977

By Mr. Muradian of Grafton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 977) of David K. Muradian, Jr., and others for legislation to establish a wildland acquisition account from monies received from the sale of wildland conservation stamps. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act relative to critical wildlife habitat management.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 2A of Chapter 131 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking the section in its entirety
3 and inserting in place thereof the following:-

4 Section 2A. There is hereby established within the Inland Fisheries and Game Fund, a
5 wildland acquisition account which shall be credited monies received from the sale of wildland
6 conservation stamps, the portion of the fees for sporting, fishing, trapping and hunting licenses to
7 be credited under the provisions of section 2C, contributions thereto and any grant monies from
8 the federal government or other public and private sources.

9 Said account, subject to appropriation, shall be used only for the purchase of land
10 containing wildlife habitat and for costs directly related to the administration of the wildlands
11 stamp program.

12 Two dollars and fifty cents from the sale of wildlands conservation stamp shall be
13 dedicated to habitat management on lands managed by the division of fisheries and wildlife.

14 The director may contract with the seller of wildlands for installment payments provided
15 that the total of all such installment payments does not exceed seventy-five percent of the
16 previous year's income to the wildlands acquisition account. Acquisition of all lands so
17 purchased shall be made with the advice and consent of the fisheries and wildlife board. All such
18 lands shall be acquired exclusively for protection and management of wildlife habitat and shall
19 be available for fishing, trapping, and hunting.

20 SECTION 2. Section 13A of Chapter 131 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as
21 appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking the section in its entirety
22 and inserting in place thereof the following:-

23 Section 13A. Except as hereinafter provided, no person shall fish, trap, or hunt in the
24 commonwealth, or utilize any lands managed by the division of fisheries and wildlife without
25 first having obtained a wildlands conservation stamp, which shall be issued by the director or his
26 duly authorized agent upon the payment of seven dollars and fifty cents; provided, however, that
27 persons who are exempted from licensing requirements need not purchase such a stamp;
28 provided, further, that persons issued fishing, sporting, trapping, or hunting licenses without
29 charge shall be issued said stamp without charge; and provided, further, that no person who has
30 purchased a stamp with any current resident license to fish, trap, or hunt shall be required to pay
31 the fee for a wildlands conservation stamp for any additional current license or any duplicate
32 license. The director is hereby authorized to issue stamps in such form as he may prescribe and
33 may issue rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this section. The stamp may

34 be imprinted directly on fishing, sporting, trapping, or hunting licenses or issued separately at the
35 discretion of the director.