

SENATE No. 531

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James B. Eldridge

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:	
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>3/9/2021</i>

SENATE No. 531

By Mr. Eldridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 531) of James B. Eldridge and Michael O. Moore for legislation relative to critical wildlife habitat management. 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 General Laws is hereby amended by
2 deleting the section in its entirety and replacing it with the following:-

3 Section 2A. There is hereby established within the Inland Fisheries and Game Fund, a
4 wildland acquisition account which shall be credited monies received from the sale of wildland
5 conservation stamps, the portion of the fees for sporting, fishing, trapping and hunting licenses to
6 be credited under the provisions of section 2C, contributions thereto and any grant monies from
7 the federal government or other public and private sources. Said account, subject to
8 appropriation, shall be used only for the purchase of land containing wildlife habitat and for costs
9 directly related to the administration of the wildlands stamp program. Two dollars and fifty cents
10 from the sale of wildlands conservation stamps shall be dedicated to habitat management on
11 lands managed by the division of fisheries and wildlife. The director may contract with the seller
12 of wildlands for installment payments provided that the total of all such installment payments

13 does not exceed seventy-five percent of the previous year's income to the wildlands acquisition
14 account. Acquisition of all lands so purchased shall be made with the advice and consent of the
15 fisheries and wildlife board. All such lands shall be acquired exclusively for protection and
16 management of wildlife habitat and shall be available for fishing, trapping, and hunting.

17 SECTION 2. Section 13A of chapter 131 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
18 deleting the section in its entirety and replacing it with the following:-

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