

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 866**

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**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>1/17/2023</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 866**

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By Representative Muradian of Grafton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 866) of David K. Muradian, Jr., for legislation to establish a wildland acquisition account from monies received from the sale of wildland conservation stamps. Environment and Natural Resources.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 977 OF 2021-2022.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

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.