

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL
No. 1189 Session of
1977

INTRODUCED BY FREIND, MAY 31, 1977

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAME AND FISHERIES, MAY 31, 1977

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1225, No.316), entitled
2 "An act concerning game and other wild birds and wild
3 animals; and amending, revising, consolidating, and changing
4 the law relating thereto," prohibiting the use of steel traps
5 in trapping animals.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. The first paragraph of section 603 and clause (c)
9 of section 703, act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1225, No.316), known as
10 "The Game Law," amended February 9, 1972 (P.L.62, No.19), are
11 amended to read:

12 Section 603. Illegal Methods of Taking Fur-Bearing Animals;
13 Exceptions.--In the taking or killing of fur-bearing animals or
14 predators it is unlawful to set traps closer than five feet from
15 any hole or den which may be occupied by a fur-bearing animal or
16 predator, except that this restriction shall not apply to
17 underwater sets, or to take muskrats and beavers except through
18 the use of [steel or] live traps and deadfalls, or to use a pole
19 trap, snare, poison, explosives, chemicals, [a] or steel trap
20 [with teeth on the jaws or with a jaw spread exceeding six and

1 one-half inches,] except a body gripping ten inch by ten inch
2 trap may be used for taking beaver provided an underwater set is
3 made, or to smoke out or dig out any den or house of any kind,
4 except when occupied by a predator, or to cut den trees, or to
5 use any trap or deadfall of any kind unless visited at least
6 once every thirty-six hours except when prevented by sickness or
7 storm: Provided, however, That it shall be lawful to use snares
8 without springpoles for the taking of predators from the
9 sixteenth day of December to the thirty-first day of March next
10 following, in such counties as the commission may, by proper
11 resolution, designate, notice of which shall be published as
12 provided in section five hundred five of this act, so long as
13 such snares are identified and visited in the same manner as
14 required for traps and deadfalls.

15 * * *

16 Section 703. Lawful Methods of Hunting.--It is lawful to
17 hunt for, catch, take, wound or kill game of any kind and
18 nongame birds only through the use of a gun, pistol, revolver,
19 or bow and arrow or by means of falcon, of a kind the use of
20 which is not hereinafter prohibited, except:

21 * * *

22 (c) That it is lawful to use live traps, or [to use steel
23 traps, baited or otherwise, with a spread of jaws, not exceeding
24 six and one-half inches, provided the trap does not have teeth
25 on the jaws: Provided further, That it is lawful to use] a body
26 gripping ten inch by ten inch trap for taking beaver provided an
27 underwater set is made, and it is lawful to use a deadfall,
28 baited or otherwise, if a metallic plate or tag is attached to
29 each trap or chain or deadfall bearing, in plain English, the
30 name and address of the owner, for the purpose of taking

1 predators, fur-bearing animals, and raccoons, so long as such
2 traps or deadfalls, except underwater sets, are not set closer
3 than five feet from any den or hole, or where any game other
4 than raccoons may be caught, and such traps or deadfalls are
5 visited at least once every thirty-six hours unless prevented by
6 sickness or storm, and at the end of the trapping season all
7 traps are sprung or removed; but it shall be unlawful to use
8 steel traps, pole traps or snares of any kind to capture wild
9 birds or wild animals, except that snares, without springpoles,
10 may be used for the purpose of taking predators in counties
11 designated by the commission during the time and in the manner
12 permitted by section six hundred and three of this act;

13 * * *

14 Section 2. This act shall take effect on September 1, next
15 following final enactment.