

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

**HOUSE BILL**  
**No. 1773** Session of  
1979

INTRODUCED BY HALVERSON, PETERSON, MADIGAN AND W. W. FOSTER,  
SEPTEMBER 26, 1979

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAME AND FISHERIES, SEPTEMBER 27, 1979

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," further providing for open season  
5 of raccoons.

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

8 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 501, act of June 3,  
9 1937 (P.L.1225, No.316), known as "The Game Law," amended  
10 January 14, 1952 (1951 P.L.2020, No.564), is amended to read:

11 Section 501. Open Seasons.--

12 \* \* \*

13 (b) Raccoons Not to Be Trapped; Exceptions; Removal of  
14 Protection, Open Season, etc. Except in defense of person or  
15 property, it is unlawful for any person to take, or attempt to  
16 take, raccoons through the use of traps or deadfalls, except in  
17 such county or counties as the commission may, by proper  
18 resolution, public notice of which shall be given as hereinafter  
19 provided, declare open to trapping when in its opinion raccoons

1 are sufficiently abundant to justify such trapping, but the  
2 provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to prevent  
3 any bona fide occupant of a farm which lies within any county  
4 not declared open to general public raccoon trapping, who is a  
5 citizen of the United States and actually resides upon and  
6 cultivates such farm, or any immediate member of his family, or  
7 regularly hired help of such occupant, if any such person is a  
8 citizen of the United States, actually residing upon and  
9 cultivating such farm, from trapping raccoons thereon, including  
10 the woodlands connected therewith as a part thereof, so long as  
11 any such person complies with the provisions of this act or the  
12 rules and regulations adopted thereunder governing trapping  
13 methods, seasons and bag limits, unless the commission has  
14 denied or this act does deny to any such person the right to  
15 hunt or trap anywhere in this Commonwealth.

16 After investigation or upon information otherwise obtained by  
17 the Department of Agriculture as to any county being infested  
18 with rabies, the commission shall, upon notice given by said  
19 department, remove all protection on raccoons in such infested  
20 counties, or declare an open season on such animals, or direct  
21 the killing and disposition of same, in such manner as the case  
22 may require.

23 Whenever the commission fixes open season for raccoons, or  
24 whenever such season is established as otherwise provided in  
25 this section, it shall be twenty-one days shorter for  
26 nonresident and alien hunters. The twenty-one days of extra open  
27 season for resident hunters shall occur at the beginning of the  
28 open season.

29 \* \* \*

30 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.