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**LEGISLATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA.**

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**FILE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.****No.****775****Session of  
1919.**

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**INTRODUCED BY MR. HUNTINGTON, MARCH 4, 1919.**

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**REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ROADS AND HIGHWAYS,  
MARCH 4, 1919.**

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**AN ACT**

Providing for the payment of certain claims for damages done to property by bear providing a method for the ascertainment of such damage and making an appropriation

1 Section 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Repre-*  
2 *sentatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly*  
3 *met and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same That*  
4 all damage done to fruit trees or growing crops or to  
5 personal property upon lands open to hunting by bear  
6 shall be paid from a fund semi-annually set apart for  
7 such purposes by appropriation from the fund in the  
8 State Treasury known as the Resident Hunter's License  
9 Fund The Secretary of the board of game commissioners  
10 is hereby authorized if necessary to draw upon said fund  
11 in amount equal to the full amount set apart for this  
12 purpose in payment of claims presented under oath or  
13 that may be assessed under the provisions of this act

1 All claims for damages incurred to become payable under  
2 the provisions of this act shall be presented in writing  
3 under oath to the secretary of the board of game com-  
4 missioners at Harrisburg within a period of two weeks  
5 from the time such damage is alleged to have been in-  
6 curred

7 Section 2 The Secretary as soon as possible after a  
8 claim of this kind has been received by him shall send  
9 at least two game protectors to interview the complain-  
10 ant and inspect the property reported as injured to col-  
11 lect such additional evidence as to them may appear  
12 necessary to a clear understanding of the case in ques-  
13 tion and to effect a settlement of the claim when pos-  
14 sible

15 Section 3 In all cases where an agreement between  
16 such game protectors and the claimant can be obtained  
17 regarding the true value of damage sustained and the  
18 secretary is satisfied that such claim is reasonable and  
19 fair a voucher shall be drawn upon said fund for the  
20 amount named in such finding

21 In all cases where the game protectors and the claim-  
22 ants cannot agree upon the amount of damage sustained  
23 or the cause of such damage the secretary of the board  
24 of game commissioners shall call together a jury of not  
25 less than three disinterested persons one of whom shall  
26 be a sportsman one a farmer or a fruit grower as the  
27 case in question may indicate and the third a business  
28 man from any walk of life Such jury shall if they de-  
29 sire view the property injured and shall hear such evi-

1 dence as may be deemed necessary to give a fair un-  
2 derstanding of the claim made and the finding of a ma-  
3 jority of the jury shall be binding insofar as the claim  
4 upon the fund in question is concerned

5 Section 4 For the purposes of this act the secretary  
6 of the board of game commissioners is empowered to ad-  
7 minister oaths to both jurors and witnesses and such oath  
8 shall in all ways be binding and of like effect as oaths  
9 administered in any court of this Commonwealth

10 Section 5 All jurors and witnesses necessary to such  
11 proceedings shall receive the same pay for services as is  
12 paid to jurors and witnesses in the courts of quarter  
13 sessions The secretary of the game commission is author-  
14 ized to draw his voucher upon the fund appropriated for  
15 this purpose for the amount named in any such award  
16 and all other expenses connected with such investigation

17 Section 6 The sum of fifteen thousand dollars is here-  
18 by specifically appropriated for two fiscal years beginning  
19 June first one thousand nine hundred and nineteen to be  
20 paid out of the receipts from the Resident Hunter's Li-  
21 cense Act and such other moneys as have accumulated  
22 and are now held in the State treasury as a fund  
23 separate and apart to be applied to the protection and  
24 propagation of game Claims for damages done shall be  
25 paid at the end of the fiscal year and if the within  
26 appropriation is not sufficient for the payment of such  
27 claims the amount appropriated shall be pro rated among  
28 the several claimants by the secretary of the game com-  
29 mission