

LEGISLATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

FILE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 992 Session of 1919.

INTRODUCED BY MR. BALDRIGE, MARCH 18, 1919.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAME, MARCH 19, 1919.

AN ACT

To amend section two of an act approved the ninth day of April one thousand nine hundred and fifteen (Pamphlet Laws seventy-three) entitled "An act to provide for the better protection and preservation of deer and elk squirrels and certain birds classed as game-birds within the Commonwealth providing a method through which certain lands in the Commonwealth may be closed to hunting for a term of years and prescribing penalties for violation of its several provisions"

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 section two of an act approved the ninth day of April
5 one thousand nine hundred and fifteen (Pamphlet Laws
6 seventy-three) entitled "An act to provide for the better
7 protection and preservation of deer and elk squirrels and
8 certain birds classed as game-birds within the Common-

1 wealth providing a method through which certain lands in  
2 the Commonwealth may be closed to hunting for a term  
3 of years and prescribing penalties for violation of its  
4 several provisions" which reads as follows

5 "Section 2 That whenever at least two hundred citi-  
6 zens of any county in this Commonwealth shall through  
7 written petition certify to the Board of Game Commis-  
8 sioners that in their opinion an absolutely closed season  
9 is necessary to insure the better protection and consequent  
10 increase of elk and deer and squirrels of all kinds and  
11 wild-turkeys and ruffed-grouse and quail and ring-necked  
12 pheasant and Hungarian quail or either of them in a  
13 wild state in that county in which such citizens may  
14 reside and asking that such county be closed to hunting  
15 for a period the Board of Game Commissioners shall  
16 forward to said petitioners and others a blank form set-  
17 ting forth such questions as they may consider best  
18 suited to determine the quantity of game and game con-  
19 ditions in the county in question and the necessity for  
20 closing said county to hunting which said forms with  
21 replies to entitle such answer to consideration before said  
22 Board of Game Commissioners shall be returned to said  
23 Board on or before the return day as fixed upon said  
24 forms Such petitioners shall also publish for at least  
25 three consecutive weeks at their own expense in at least  
26 two prominent newspapers in the county to be closed the  
27 statement that such petition has been filed with its pur-  
28 pose and the return day for information as fixed by  
29 the Board of Game Commissioners and shall file with

1 said Board duly certified copies of such notices as pub-  
2 lished in each newspaper on or before said return day  
3 If the written answers as returned shall fail to satisfy  
4 said Board of Game Commissioners that such closed sea-  
5 son is necessary or those opposing such action shall de-  
6 mand a hearing before said Board then a hearing shall  
7 be had upon such date and at such place within the  
8 county to be affected as may be decided upon by the  
9 said Board of Game Commissioners the expense of such  
10 hearing to be paid by those demanding the same If  
11 after the receipt of the written answers or the public  
12 hearing or both the Board of Game Commissioners shall  
13 be satisfied such closed season is necessary to insure the  
14 better protection of elk and deer squirrels of all kinds  
15 and wild-turkeys and ruffed-grouse and quail and ring-necked  
16 pheasants and Hungarian quail found in a wild state and  
17 their consequent increase in said county they are here-  
18 with empowered and directed to declare a closed season  
19 not to exceed five years for elk and deer and wild  
20 turkeys and ruffed-grouse and quail and ring-necked pheas-  
21 ants and Hungarian quail or either of them found in  
22 a wild state within said county

23 The Board of Game Commissioners to make such  
24 closed season effective and binding shall be required to  
25 publish annually their decision and action regarding this  
26 matter in at least three newspapers if there be that  
27 many in each county affected thereby and to have notices  
28 of such ruling declaring such county closed to hunting  
29 printed and annually distributed in reasonable numbers

1 throughout the affected territory

2 Each and every person violating any of the provisions  
3 of such ruling made by the Board of Game Commis-  
4 sioners under the requirements of this act shall be liable  
5 to a penalty of three hundred dollars for each elk and  
6 two hundred dollars for each deer and twenty-five dollars  
7 for each squirrel or bird taken killed wounded or at-  
8 tempted to be taken killed or wounded upon said closed  
9 territory" is hereby amended to read as follows

10 Section 2 That whenever at least two hundred citi-  
11 zens of any county in this Commonwealth shall through  
12 written petition certify to the Board of Game Commis-  
13 sioners that in their opinion an absolutely closed season  
14 is necessary to insure the better protection and conse-  
15 quent increase of elk and deer and squirrels of all  
16 kinds and wild-turkeys and ruffed-grouse and quail and  
17 ring-necked pheasant and Hungarian quail or either of  
18 them in a wild state in that county in which such  
19 citizens may reside and asking that such county be  
20 closed to hunting for a period the Board of Game Com-  
21 missioners shall forward to said petitioners and others a  
22 blank form setting forth such questions as they may  
23 consider best suited to determine the quantity of game and  
24 game conditions in the county in question and the neces-  
25 sity for closing said county to hunting which said forms  
26 with replies to entitle such answer to consideration before  
27 said Board of Game Commissioners shall have attached  
28 thereto the name address and resident hunter's license  
29 number for the previous year of each signer to the

1 original petition and shall be returned to said Board on  
2 or before the return day as fixed upon said forms  
3 Such petitioners shall also publish for at least three con-  
4 secutive weeks at their own expense in at least two  
5 prominent newspapers in the county to be closed and in  
6 at least one sportsmen's magazine published within the  
7 Commonwealth the statement that such petition has been  
8 filed with its purpose and the return day for informa-  
9 tion as fixed by the Board of Game Commissioners and  
10 shall file with said board duly certified copies of such  
11 notices as published in each newspaper on or before said  
12 return day If the written answers as returned shall fail  
13 to satisfy said Board of Game Commissioners that such  
14 closed season is necessary or those opposing such action  
15 shall demand a hearing before said board then a hear-  
16 ing shall be had upon such date and at such place  
17 within the county to be affected as may be decided upon  
18 by the said Board of Game Commissioners the expense  
19 of such hearing to be paid by those demanding the  
20 same If after the receipt of the written answers or the  
21 public hearing or both the Board of Game Commissioners  
22 shall be satisfied such closed season is necessary to in-  
23 sure the better protection of elk and deer squirrels of  
24 all kinds and wild-turkeys and ruffed-grouse and quail  
25 and ring-necked pheasants and Hungarian quail found in  
26 a wild state and their consequent increase in said county  
27 they are herewith empowered and directed to declare a  
28 closed season not to exceed five years for elk and deer

1 and wild-turkeys and ruffed-grouse and quail and ring-  
2 necked pheasants and Hungarian quail or either of them  
3 found in a wild state within said county

4 The Board of Game Commissioners to make such  
5 closed season effective and binding shall be required to  
6 publish annually their decision and action regarding this  
7 matter in at least three newspapers if there be that  
8 many in each county affected thereby and in at least  
9 one sportsmen's magazine published within the Common-  
10 wealth and to have notices of such ruling declaring such  
11 county closed to hunting printed and annually distributed  
12 in reasonable numbers throughout the affected territory

13 Each and every person violating any of the provisions  
14 of such ruling made by the Board of Game Commis-  
15 sioners under the requirements of this act shall be liable  
16 to a penalty of three hundred dollars for each elk and  
17 two hundred dollars for each deer and twenty-five dollars  
18 for each squirrel or bird taken killed wounded or at-  
19 tempted to be taken killed or wounded upon said closed  
20 territory