

CHAPTER 126**(HCR 7)**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to issue more migratory bird depredation permits and Kentucky Farm Bureau-administered subpermits to allow Kentucky farmers to legally take black vultures that are depredating their livestock.

WHEREAS, the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, 16 U.S.C. secs. 703 to 712, prohibits pursuing, hunting, taking, capturing, killing, or selling black vultures without a migratory bird depredation permit or subpermit; and

WHEREAS, black vultures are the only vultures found in the Commonwealth that take live prey, and after range expansion and population increases over the past 50 years, they have become common in Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, there is increasing concern among Kentucky farmers about the prevalence of livestock depredation caused by black vultures, yet they are prohibited under federal law from taking them without a migratory bird depredation permit or subpermit; and

WHEREAS, a farmer experiencing black vulture depredation may apply directly to the USFWS for a migratory bird depredation permit or the farmer may apply for one or more subpermits that have been allotted by the USFWS to Kentucky Farm Bureau for distribution; and

WHEREAS, many farmers have not been able to adequately protect their livestock from black vulture depredation, because they have found the migratory bird depredation permit and subpermit application and distribution process to be long, onerous, and overly restrictive; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky farmers believe that they have the right to protect their livestock from black vultures, which have become nuisances to the agricultural community in the Commonwealth;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:

➔Section 1. The Kentucky General Assembly urges the USFWS to issue more permits and subpermits to allow for the taking of depredating black vultures and to shorten and streamline the application process to allow greater and more timely relief to farmers experiencing depredation.

➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall send a copy of this Resolution and notification of its adoption to each member of the Kentucky Congressional delegation, Greg Sheehan, acting director of the USFWS, and Mark Haney, president of Kentucky Farm Bureau.

Signed by Governor April 10, 2018.