

U.S. Rep. John Lacey's Bill about the Department of Agriculture, 1900

56th Congress, 1st Session
H.R. 6634

In the House of Representatives
January 17, 1900

Mr. Lacey introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce and ordered to be printed.

A BILL

To enlarge the powers of the Department of Agriculture, prohibit the transportation by interstate commerce of game killed in violation of local laws, and for all other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the duties and powers of the Department of Agriculture are hereby enlarged so as to include the preservation, distribution, introduction, and restoration of game birds and other wild birds. The Secretary of Agriculture is hereby authorized to adopt such measures as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act and to purchase such game birds and other wild birds as may be required therefore, subject, however, to the laws of the various States and Territories. The object and purpose of this Act is to aid in the restoration in such birds in those parts of the United States adapted thereto where the same have become scarce, or extinct and also to regulate the introduction of American or foreign birds or animals in localities where they have not heretofore existed.

The Secretary of Agriculture shall from time to time collect and publish useful information as to the propagation, uses, and preservation of such birds.

And the Secretary of Agriculture shall make and publish all needed rules and regulations for carrying out the purposes of this Act, and shall expend for said purposes such sums as Congress may appropriate therefor.

Sec. 2 That it shall be unlawful for any person or persons to import into the United States any foreign wild animal or bird except under special permit from the United States Department of Agriculture: Provided, that nothing in this section shall restrict the importation of natural history specimens for museums or scientific collections, or the importation of certain cage birds, such as domesticated canaries, parrots, or such species as the Secretary of Agriculture may designate.

The importation of the mongoose, the so-called "flying foxes" or fruit bats, the English sparrow, the starling, or such other birds or animals as the Secretary of Agriculture may from time to time declare injurious to the interest of agriculture or horticulture is hereby prohibited, and such species upon arrival at any of the ports of the United States shall be...