

Merritt C. Ring was a man of power, strength and courage who left his imprint for good upon his community and the state. He was a man who stood by his friends, and withal a gentle and kindly man. Therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate, the Assembly concurring,* That in the death of Merritt C. Ring the state has lost a respected citizen and one who has been a valued public servant, and those who knew him personally have lost a good and loyal friend; and be it further

*Resolved,* That this expression of appreciation be entered upon the journals of the two houses and that an engrossed copy, properly attested by the legislative officers, be conveyed to the family of the deceased.

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[Jt. Res. No. 36, S.]

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 32.

Directing the Conservation Commission of Wisconsin to investigate all matters relating to the taking, protection, propagation and conservation of fish and game and all forms of wild animal and bird life, and to propose and recommend a revision and codification of all fish and game laws.

WHEREAS, The State of Wisconsin now has no natural resource within its borders of greater value or importance to all of its people than its fish and game and other forms of wild animal and bird life, and

WHEREAS, The song and insect and rodent-eating birds are of inestimable value in the destruction of insects and noxious weed seeds, and

WHEREAS, The destruction of the fish and game and bird resources of the state has increased within recent years to such an alarming extent that public welfare demands and requires effective, intelligent and practical legislation for the purpose of conserving, propagating and protecting such natural resources, and

WHEREAS, It is further well recognized that existing legislation relating to the taking, protecting and propagating of fish, game and birds is largely local in its character, chaotic, unscientific and inharmonious, and

WHEREAS, Other states and governments have heretofore, through legislation and otherwise, devoted to the subject much thought and experience and have enacted effective and practical legislation pertaining to the subject of conservation, protection

and propagation of fish, game, fur-bearing animals, and birds, and have evolved efficient means and methods of administration with respect thereof, and

WHEREAS, It is deemed advisable in the interest of the public welfare and a matter of sound public policy that this state shall as speedily as possible give and devote to this subject the best thought, study and experience obtainable in order that many valuable species of wild life shall be saved from extermination and preserved to posterity; that the agricultural and fruit growing interests of the state shall receive the greatest possible protection against the enormous damage due to vermin, insects and noxious plant life; that the forests may be protected against injurious and destructive insects; and that there may be secured to the sportsmen of the present and future their full measure of enjoyment and recreation in the open, now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, by the Senate, the Assembly concurring,* That the Conservation Commission of Wisconsin shall investigate carefully, fully and intelligently all matters pertaining to fish and game and all forms of wild animal and bird life in the state of Wisconsin, particularly with respect to their haunts, habits, characteristics and their value from the standpoint of the sportsman, farmer and economic interest generally; to propose a complete revision or new codification of laws pertaining to every phase of the subject of the taking, protection, propagation and conservation of fish, game and other forms of wild animal and bird life, and to that end, said commission is authorized to propose the repeal, amendment or revision of any law or laws pertaining to the subject and to propose such new laws, measures and regulations and methods of enforcement and administration thereof as said commission shall deem advisable; to harmonize and make uniform such laws as now pertain to the subject and as may be proposed by said commission, with other laws pertaining to the subject already enacted in this state or proposed to be enacted by said commission and with laws now existing in other states and under the federal government; and to propose and recommend a comprehensive scheme and plan for the protection, propagation and conservation of fish and game and wild animal and bird life and to propose such laws, rules and provisions for the proper, effective and intelligent handling, management and administration of the same and to further propose such measures, bills and laws as will be conducive to the most intelligent, effective and economical handling and administration of all departments and all matters and things relating to fish and game and wild animal and bird life and the taking, propagation and conservation thereof. Be it further

*Resolved*, That the said commission, by a majority of the members thereof, is hereby invested with plenary powers to perform and discharge the duties by this resolution enjoined, and in the exercise of such power is authorized to meet at any point in this state where information on the subject herein may be obtained and to hold hearings and make investigations thereat. Be it further

*Resolved*, That the said commission may, by subpoena issued over the signature of any member thereof and served in the manner that circuit court subpoenas are served, summon and compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of all books, papers, documents and records necessary or convenient to be summoned or used by them as evidence and may do all other things which may to them appear necessary or convenient to make full examination, study and inquiry and investigation as herein directed. And be it further

*Resolved*, That the said commission shall have power to employ and fix the compensation of such counsel, experts, stenographers, clerks and assistants and to require such assistance and coöperation from the department of agriculture of the university of Wisconsin or such members or employes or subordinates thereof, as they may deem necessary. Any member of the said commission shall have power to administer oaths to persons appearing before such commission. And be it further

*Resolved*, That each member of said commission shall be reimbursed by the state for his actual necessary expenses but shall receive no compensation for time devoted to the work of such committee. Be it further

*Resolved*, That such commission may exercise all powers provided by law or by this resolution at any time prior to January 1, 1917, and that such commission shall with all reasonable dispatch discharge the duties hereby imposed and report to the governor on or before January 1, 1917, and thereafter as soon as convenient to the legislature of the state of Wisconsin, all facts found and testimony taken by them together with their recommendation thereon as herein provided for.