

gates, appointed by the Speaker, shall be created to make an in-depth study of the entire subject of racing in Maryland; and be it further

*Resolved*, That such committee be requested to report the results of their study along with any recommendations for legislation to the Legislative Council by November 1, 1969; and be it further

*Resolved*, That copies of this Resolution be sent to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

Approved May 2, 1969.

---

No. 41

(House Joint Resolution 72)

House Joint Resolution requesting that the Maryland General Assembly recommend the closure of the hunting season on Canvasback and Redhead Ducks within the Atlantic Flyway.

WHEREAS, there is a continuing decline in the diving duck population of the North American Continent; and

WHEREAS, there is concrete evidence that the ability of the prairie marshes to produce decreases 80,000 ducks per year; and

WHEREAS, this decrease can be attributed to the indiscriminate use of pesticides, the draining of nesting habitats, and other activities of man; and

WHEREAS, these nesting habitats, in recent years, have been further depleted by long periods of drought which dried up potholes necessary for duck production, speeding the decline of these species; and

WHEREAS, this reduction in diving ducks is particularly noted in the reduction of numbers of redhead and canvasback ducks; and

WHEREAS, should this decline continue, these two ducks will be included among those species considered endangered; and

WHEREAS, the population of canvasback ducks in continental North America is estimated at only 200,000; and

WHEREAS, expert waterfowl conservationists estimate there are only 40,000 female canvasbacks east of the Rocky Mountains and 20,000 female canvasbacks west of the Rocky Mountains; and

WHEREAS, it has become necessary to take drastic steps for the protection of canvasbacks and redheads; and

WHEREAS, the migratory habits of the canvasback duck bring approximately 90 per cent of the population east of the Rocky Mountains to Maryland, the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries; and

WHEREAS, this more fully emphasizes the significance of our Chesapeake Bay in protection of this valuable bird; and

WHEREAS, the rapidly dwindling numbers of canvasbacks and redheads demands development of better rapport between the States and the Provinces of Canada for the protection of these species; and