

No. 122. An act relating to youth hunting.

(H.555)

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 4502(b) is amended to read:

(b) A person violating provisions of this part shall receive points for convictions in accordance with the following schedule (all sections are in Title 10 of Vermont Statutes Annotated):

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(U) Appendix § 37, excluding violations of annual deer limits, requirements for youth deer hunting weekend, and limitations on feeding of deer.

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 4742a is amended to read:

§ 4742a. YOUTH DEER HUNTING WEEKEND

(a) The Saturday and Sunday prior to opening day of regular deer season shall be youth deer hunting weekend.

(b) A person who is age 15 and under on the weekend of the hunt, who has successfully completed a hunter safety course, may take one wild deer during youth deer hunting weekend in accordance with the rules of the board. In order to hunt under this section, a young person shall also hold a valid hunting license under section 4255 of this title, hold a youth deer hunting tag, and be accompanied by an unarmed adult who holds a valid Vermont hunting license

and who is over 18 years of age. An adult accompanying a youth under this section shall accompany no more than two young people at one time.

(c) Each year, the board shall determine whether antlerless deer may be taken under this section in any deer management unit or units. A determination under this subsection shall be made by rule, shall be based on the game management study conducted pursuant to section 4081 of this title and, notwithstanding subsection (g) of that section, may allow taking of antlerless deer.

(d) No person shall hunt under this section on privately owned land without first obtaining the permission of the owner or occupant.

(e) Before the first youth deer hunting weekend and after each fall hunting season, the department shall collect information on youth deer hunting weekend during the regional public hearings held pursuant to subsection 4081(f) of this title. Information relative to the public's knowledge and concerns about the deer herd shall be gathered. The board shall administer youth deer hunting weekend, by deer management unit, based on public input and scientific information.

(f) The scheduled amount of a fine under section 4555 of this title shall be doubled for a violation of this section, and the fine shall be assessed against the licensed adult who is accompanying the youth pursuant to subsection (b) of this section and who has the youth hunter in his or her charge.

(g) For the purposes of this section, “accompany,” “accompanied,” or “accompanying” means direct control and supervision, including the ability to see and communicate with the youth hunter without the aid of artificial devices such as radios or binoculars, except for medically necessary devices such as hearing aids or eyeglasses. While hunting, an individual who holds a valid hunting license under subsection 4254(b) of this title shall accompany no more than two youth hunters at a time.

Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 4908 is amended to read:

§ 4908. YOUTH TURKEY HUNTING WEEKEND

(a) The Saturday and Sunday prior to opening day of spring turkey season shall be youth turkey hunting weekend.

(b) A person who is age 15 ~~and~~ or under on the weekend of the hunt, who has successfully completed a hunter safety course, may take one wild turkey during youth turkey hunting weekend in accordance with the rules of the board. In order to hunt under this section, a young person shall also hold valid hunting and turkey licenses under section 4255 of this title, hold a youth turkey hunting tag, and be accompanied by an unarmed adult who holds a valid Vermont hunting license and is over 18 years of age. An adult accompanying a youth under this section shall accompany no more than two young people at one time.

(c) No person shall hunt under this section on privately owned land without first obtaining the permission of the owner or occupant.

(d) The scheduled amount of a fine under section 4555 of this title shall be doubled for a violation of this section, and the fine shall be assessed against the licensed adult who is accompanying the youth pursuant to subsection (b) of this section and who has the youth hunter in his or her charge.

(e) For the purposes of this section, “accompany,” “accompanied,” or “accompanying” means direct control and supervision, including the ability to see and communicate with the youth hunter without the aid of artificial devices such as radios or binoculars, except for medically necessary devices such as hearing aids or eyeglasses. While hunting, an individual who holds a valid hunting license under subsection 4254(b) of this title shall accompany no more than two youth hunters at a time.

Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 4502(b) is amended to read:

(b) A person violating provisions of this part shall receive points for convictions in accordance with the following schedule (all sections are in Title 10 of Vermont Statutes Annotated):

(1) Five points shall be assessed for any violation of statutes or rules adopted under this part except those listed in subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection.

(2) Ten points shall be assessed for:

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(II) Appendix § 37, as it ~~applied~~ applies to annual deer limits and as it applies to youth deer hunting weekend. Points assessed for violation of Appendix 37 as it relates to youth turkey hunting weekend shall be assessed solely against the adult accompanying the youth hunter

(JJ) Appendix § 22, as it applies to youth turkey hunting weekend. Points assessed for violation of Appendix 22 as it relates to youth turkey hunting weekend shall be assessed solely against the adult accompanying the youth hunter.

(3) Twenty points shall be assessed for:

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(P) Appendix § 22 (excluding § 22E). Turkey season, excluding requirements for youth turkey hunting season.

* * *

(U) Appendix § 37, excluding violations of annual deer limits, requirements for youth deer hunting weekend, and limitations on feeding of deer.

Sec. 4. 10 V.S.A. § 4001(14) is amended to read:

(14) Fur-bearing animals: beaver, otter, marten, mink, raccoon, fisher, fox, skunk, coyote, bobcat, weasel, opossum, lynx, wolf, and muskrat.

Sec. 5. REPEAL

10 V.S.A. § 4865 (muskrat shooting season) is repealed.

Sec. 6. FISH AND WILDLIFE BOARD REPORT ON YOUTH DEER
HUNTING LIMITS

On or before January 15, 2011, the fish and wildlife board shall submit to the house committee on fish, wildlife and water resources and the senate committee on natural resources and energy a recommendation as to whether a youth who hunts deer under 10 V.S.A. § 4742a should be limited to the taking of one deer prior to the youth turning 16 years of age.

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.

Approved: May 26, 2010