

No. 130. An act relating to the use of felt-soled boots in the waters of Vermont.

(H.488)

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

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 4616 is added to read:

§ 4616. FELT-SOLED BOOTS AND WADERS; USE PROHIBITED

It is unlawful to use external felt-soled boots or external felt-soled waders in the waters of Vermont, except that a state or federal employee or emergency personnel, including fire, law enforcement, and EMT personnel, may use external felt-soled boots or external felt-soled waders in the discharge of official duties.

Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 4572 is amended to read:

§ 4572. DEFINITIONS

(a) As used in this subchapter, a minor fish and game violation means:

(1) A violation of 10 V.S.A. § 4145 (violation of access and landing area rules);

(2) A violation of 10 V.S.A. § 4251 (taking wild animals and fish without a license);

(3) A violation of 10 V.S.A. § 4266 (failure to carry a license on person or failure to exhibit license);

(4) A violation of 10 V.S.A. § 4267 (false statements in license application; altering license; transferring license to another person; using

another person's license; or guiding an unlicensed person); ~~or~~

(5) A violation of 10 V.S.A. § 4713 (tree or ground stands or blinds); or

(6) A violation of 10 V.S.A. § 4616 (use of external felt-soled boots or external felt-soled waders).

(b) "Bureau" means the judicial bureau as created in 4 V.S.A. § 1102.

Sec. 3. ANR PUBLIC OUTREACH REGARDING FELT-SOLED

PROHIBITION

To provide education and outreach to the public regarding the prohibition, beginning April 1, 2011, on the use of external felt-soled boots and felt-soled waders under 10 V.S.A. § 4616, the agency of natural resources shall:

(1) post signage regarding the prohibition, beginning April 1, 2011, on the use of external felt-soled boots and felt-soled waders at access points to state surface waters;

(2) include a notification regarding the prohibition on the use of external felt-soled boots and felt-soled waders and instructions for checking, cleaning, and drying equipment to prevent the spread of didymo and other aquatic nuisance diseases on hunting and fishing license applications or in department of fish and wildlife printed materials made available where hunting and fishing licenses are sold.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Sec. 3 (education and outreach regarding felt-soled prohibition) of this act shall take effect upon passage.

(b) Secs. 1 (prohibition on use of felt-soled boots and waders) and 2 (minor fish and game violations) shall take effect April 1, 2011.

Approved: May 29, 2010