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H.243

Introduced by Representatives Adams of Hartland, Consejo of Sheldon, Fagan  
of Rutland City, McCullough of Williston, Peltz of Woodbury  
and Rodgers of Glover

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Fish and wildlife; licenses; mentored hunting program

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to create a mentored hunting license.

The license will allow an individual of any age to hunt for two seasons without  
taking a hunter education course or having a hunting license. This bill would  
allow mentored-hunter license holders to hunt under the direct control and  
supervision of any fully licensed individual over the age of 21 subject to the  
fully licensed hunter's bag limit.

*An act relating to the creation of a mentored hunting license*

~~An act relating to the creation of an apprentice hunting license~~

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

~~Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 4256 is added to read:~~

~~§ 4256. MENTORED HUNTING LICENSES~~

~~(a) A resident or nonresident mentored hunting license may be issued to  
any person who has not taken a hunter safety course as required under  
subdivisions 4254(b)(1) and (2) of this title, provided that:~~

1 ~~(1) A mentored hunting license shall only be issued twice to any one~~  
2 ~~individual, and each license shall last for only one season.~~

3 ~~(2) A mentored hunting license shall not be issued to any individual who~~  
4 ~~has held a valid hunting license under subsection 4254(b) of this title or an~~  
5 ~~equivalent license in any other state.~~

6 ~~(3) The mentored hunting license shall be issued to a person 16 years of~~  
7 ~~age or younger only with the written consent of the applicant's parent or legal~~  
8 ~~guardian given in the presence of the agent issuing the license.~~

9 ~~(b) Having held a valid mentored hunting license does not exempt an~~  
10 ~~individual from meeting all the requirements for a hunting license under~~  
11 ~~subsection 4254(b) of this title.~~

12 Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 4252 is amended to read:

13 § 4252. ACTIVITIES PERMITTED UNDER LICENSES

14 Subject to provisions of this part and regulations of the board:

15 (1) A fishing license shall entitle the holder to take fish.

16 (2) A hunting license shall entitle the holder to take wild animals, except  
17 those that require a separate big game license, and to shoot pickerel.

18 \* \* \*

19 ~~(13) A mentored hunting license shall entitle the holder to the same~~  
20 ~~privileges as a hunting license under subdivision (2) of this section except that:~~

21 ~~(A) For the purposes of this section, "accompany" or "accompanied"~~  
22 ~~means direct control and supervision. While hunting, an individual who holds~~

1 ~~a valid hunting license under subsection 4254(b) of this title shall accompany~~  
2 ~~only one mentored hunter at a time.~~

3 (B) An individual who holds a mentored hunting license shall be  
4 entitled to hunt only when accompanied by an individual, 21 years of age or  
5 older, who holds a valid hunting license under subsection 4254(b) of this title.

6 (C) An individual who holds a mentored hunting license is not  
7 eligible to hunt moose pursuant to subdivision (11) of this section.

8 (D) An individual who holds a mentored hunting license shall be  
9 subject to the bag limit of the fully licensed accompanying hunter. When  
10 game is taken by a mentored hunter it shall be deemed taken by the fully  
11 licensed accompanying hunter.

12 Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 4255 is amended to read:

13 § 4255. LICENSE FEES

14 (a) Vermont residents may apply for licenses on forms provided by the  
15 commissioner. Fees for each license shall be:

16 \* \* \*

17 (12) Mentored hunting license \$ 5.00

18 (b) Nonresidents may apply for licenses on forms provided by the  
19 commissioner. Fees for each license shall be:

20 \* \* \*

21 (16) Mentored hunting license \$ 5.00

22 \* \* \*

*Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 4256 is added to read:*

§ 4256. MENTORED HUNTING LICENSES

(a) An individual who holds a mentored hunting license shall be entitled to hunt only when accompanied by an individual, 21 years of age or older, who holds a valid hunting license under subsection 4254(b) of this title. A resident or nonresident mentored hunting license may be issued to any person who has not taken a hunter safety course as required under subdivisions 4254(b)(1) and (2) of this title, provided that:

(1) A mentored hunting license shall only be issued twice to any one individual, and each license shall last until December 31 of the year for which the license was issued.

(2) A mentored hunting license shall not be issued to any individual who has held a valid hunting license under subsection 4254(b) of this title or an equivalent license in any other state.

(3) The mentored hunting license shall not be issued to a person under 16 years of age without the written consent of the applicant's parent or legal guardian given in the presence of the agent issuing the license.

(b) Having held a valid mentored hunting license does not exempt an individual from meeting all the requirements for a hunting license under subsection 4254(b) of this title.

(c) At the time of licensing, the department shall provide each mentored hunter a document to explain the details of the mentored hunting license program and to educate the mentored hunter about hunting safety and responsibility. The applicant shall certify, according to department procedure, that he or she has read the document. The department shall provide copies of this document to all locations authorized to sell licenses pursuant to subsection 4254(e) of this title.

(d) For the purposes of this section, "accompany," "accompanied," or "accompanying" ~~means direct control and supervision, including the ability to see and communicate with the mentored hunter without the aid of artificial devices such as radios or binoculars, except for medically necessary devices such as hearing aids or eyeglasses~~ means that the mentored hunter is in the direct control and supervision of the licensed hunter and is within 15 feet of the licensed hunter. While hunting, an individual who holds a valid hunting license under subsection 4254(b) of this title shall accompany only one mentored hunter at a time. The individual accompanying the mentored hunter while hunting shall sign and date the license of the mentored hunter.

(e) An individual who holds a mentored hunting license is not eligible to hunt moose pursuant to subsection 4254(b) of this title.

(f) An individual who holds a mentored hunting license shall be subject to the bag limit of the fully licensed accompanying hunter. When game is taken by a mentored hunter, it shall be deemed taken by the fully licensed accompanying hunter.

(g) Notwithstanding subdivision 5101(a)(1) of this title, after tagging and reporting game pursuant to fish and wildlife regulations, a person who holds a mentored hunting license may, unaccompanied by the fully licensed accompanying hunter, transport game the mentored hunter has taken.

(h) 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 accompanying the mentored hunter.

(i) On demand of a game warden or other officer authorized by law to make arrests, or of the owner of the land on which a person is hunting, the individual who holds a mentored hunting license shall exhibit the license.

Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 4252 is amended to read:

§ 4252. ACTIVITIES PERMITTED UNDER LICENSES

Subject to provisions of this part and regulations of the board:

(1) A fishing license shall entitle the holder to take fish.

(2) A hunting license shall entitle the holder to take wild animals, except those that require a separate big game license, and to shoot pickerel.

\* \* \*

(13) A mentored hunting license shall entitle the holder to the same privileges as permitted by the fully licensed accompanying hunter's hunting license under subdivision (2) of this section.

Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 4255 is amended to read:

§ 4255. LICENSE FEES

(a) Vermont residents may apply for licenses on forms provided by the commissioner. Fees for each license shall be:

\* \* \*

(12) Mentored hunting license \$ 10.00

(b) Nonresidents may apply for licenses on forms provided by the commissioner. Fees for each license shall be:

\* \* \*

(16) Mentored hunting license \$ 10.00

\* \* \*

*Sec. 4. 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:*

*\* \* \**

*~~(CC) Appendix § 22E. Turkey reporting~~*

*\* \* \**

*(II) Appendix § 37, as it ~~applied~~ applies to annual deer limits*

*(JJ) § 4256. Mentored hunting license, and the points shall be assessed against the licensed adult who is accompanying the individual holding the mentored hunting license.*

*\* \* \**