

H.488

An act relating to prohibiting the use of felt-soled boots in the waters of Vermont

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.

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. 2a. ANR REPORT ON PUBLIC OUTREACH REGARDING
FELT-SOLED PROHIBITION

On or before January 15, 2011, the agency of natural resources shall report to the house fish and wildlife and water resources committee and the senate natural resources and energy committee with a proposed program for education and outreach to the public regarding the prohibition on the use of external felt-soled boots and waders under 10 V.S.A. § 4616. The report shall:

(1) address whether signage regarding the prohibition on the use of external felt-soled boots and waders should be posted at access points to state surface waters;

(2) address whether a notification regarding the prohibition on the use of external felt-soled boots and waders should be included on hunting and fishing license applications or in department of fish and wildlife printed materials.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Sec. 1 and 2 (prohibition on external felt-soled boots and waders) shall take effect on January 1, 2012.

(b) This Sec. and Sec. 2a (education and outreach report) shall take effect upon passage.