

1 H.555

2 Introduced by Representatives Lewis of Derby, Atkins of Winooski, Baker of
3 West Rutland, Bohi of Hartford, Branagan of Georgia, Canfield
4 of Fair Haven, Courcelle of Rutland City, Deen of Westminster,
5 Devereux of Mount Holly, Donaghy of Poultney, Fagan of
6 Rutland City, French of Shrewsbury, Higley of Lowell, Howard
7 of Cambridge, Hubert of Milton, Komline of Dorset, Lorber of
8 Burlington, Marcotte of Coventry, Martin of Springfield,
9 McCullough of Williston, McFaun of Barre Town, McNeil of
10 Rutland Town, Mitchell of Barnard, Morley of Barton,
11 Morrissey of Bennington, Myers of Essex, Nease of Johnson,
12 Partridge of Windham, Reis of St. Johnsbury, Rodgers of
13 Glover, Savage of Swanton, Shaw of Pittsford, South of St.
14 Johnsbury, Stevens of Shoreham, Sweaney of Windsor,
15 Townsend of Randolph, Turner of Milton, Webb of Shelburne
16 and Wheeler of Derby and Zuckerman of Burlington

17 Referred to Committee on

18 Date:

19 Subject: Conservation and development; game; youth hunting

20 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to require that participants in youth
21 deer hunting and youth turkey hunting weekends receive written permission to

1 hunt on privately owned land. In addition, for violations of the requirements
2 for youth deer and youth turkey hunting weekends, points would be assessed
3 against the adult accompanying the young hunter and not the young hunter.
4 The scheduled fines for violation of the requirements for youth deer and turkey
5 hunting weekends would be doubled and would be assessed against the adult
6 accompanying the young hunter.

7 An act relating to youth hunting

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

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

10 § 4742a. YOUTH DEER HUNTING WEEKEND

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

13 (b) A person who is age 15 and under, who has successfully completed a
14 hunter safety course, may take one wild deer during youth deer hunting
15 weekend in accordance with the rules of the board. In order to hunt under this
16 section, a young person shall also hold a valid hunting license under section
17 4255 of this title and be accompanied by an unarmed adult who holds a valid
18 Vermont hunting license and who is over 18 years of age. An adult
19 accompanying a youth under this section shall accompany no more than two
20 young people at one time.

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

7 (d) No person shall hunt under this section on privately owned land without
8 first obtaining the written permission of the owner or occupant. On demand of
9 a game warden or other officer authorized by law to make arrests, or of the
10 owner of the land on which such person is hunting, the young person shall
11 provide the written permission.

12 (e) Before the first youth deer hunting weekend and after each fall hunting
13 season, the department shall collect information on youth deer hunting
14 weekend during the regional public hearings held pursuant to subsection
15 4081(f) of this title. Information relative to the public's knowledge and
16 concerns about the deer herd shall be gathered. The board shall administer
17 youth deer hunting weekend, by deer management unit, based on public input
18 and scientific information.

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

2 § 4908. YOUTH TURKEY HUNTING WEEKEND

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

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

13 (c) No person shall hunt under this section on privately owned land without
14 first obtaining the written permission of the owner or occupant. On demand of
15 a game warden or other officer authorized by law to make arrests, or of the
16 owner of the land on which such person is hunting, the young person shall
17 provide the written permission.

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

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

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

4 (2) Ten points shall be assessed for:

5 * * *

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

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

14 (3) Twenty points shall be assessed for:

15 * * *

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

18 * * *

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

1 Sec. 4. 10 V.S.A. § 4555 is amended to read:

2 § 4555. ANSWERS TO UNIFORM FISH AND WILDLIFE

3 INFORMATIONS

4 (a) A person who is charged with committing a violation of this part may
5 waive appearance and trial with the consent of the prosecuting attorney and
6 plead guilty or nolo contendere by a signed statement. The person shall submit
7 a fine in an amount as established under subsection (b) of this section with the
8 signed statement. The court shall accept the signed statement accompanied by
9 the fine assessed as a plea of guilty or nolo contendere as indicated on the
10 signed statement and shall proceed accordingly.

11 (b) Three district court judges appointed by the court administrator shall
12 establish schedules, within the limits prescribed by law, of the amount of fines
13 to be imposed. The fines shall be paid to, receipted by and accounted for by
14 the clerk in the same manner as other fines. A game warden or law
15 enforcement officer who issues an information shall advise the defendant of
16 the schedule of fines and show ~~him~~ the defendant a copy of that schedule. The
17 scheduled amount of a fine shall be doubled for a violation of 10 V.S.A. App.
18 § 22, as it applies to youth turkey hunting weekend and 10 V.S.A. App. § 37,
19 as it applies to youth deer hunting weekend and shall be assessed against the
20 adult accompanying the youth hunter.

1 (c) If a defendant fails to answer or appear as directed on the uniform fish
2 and wildlife information or by the district court judge or fails to pay the fine
3 after judgment, the commissioner shall suspend the hunting, fishing, and
4 trapping license or the privilege of the defendant to take wild animals in this
5 state until the defendant answers, appears or pays the fine.

*Sec. 4a. 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.

6 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

7 This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.