

## **Outline of Vermont Fish and Wildlife Proposed 2016 Omnibus Bill**

### ***§ 4083. Fish and § 4611. Sale of fish salmon, trout, and black bass***

- Allows the Fish and Wildlife Board to promulgate rules regarding the purchase and sale of angler caught fish including: prohibitions against the sale of specified fish; seasons; limits; reporting requirements; and the manner and means of pursuing taking or killing of such fish.
- Requires a permit for the purchase and sale of angler caught fish.

### ***§ 4605. Placing fish in waters; fish importation permits***

- Amends the importation and stocking statute to require a permit for such activities in accordance with the rules promulgated by the Commissioner. Continues to exempt private ponds.
- Provides the Commissioner with rulemaking authority to: require a permit to introduce or attempt to introduce specific fish species to specific State waters based on management purposes; and prohibit the introduction or attempt at introduction of fish to specific State waters based on management purposes, ecosystem considerations, or the health and safety of Vermont's fish population.

### ***§ 4501. Aiding in violations***

- Clarifies and strengthens the description of aiding in violations to enable more effective enforcement

### ***§ 4502. Uniform point system; revocation of license***

- Amends the points for several violations to provide for greater fairness and consistency related to license suspension periods for hunting violations. For example, lower points and suspensions are specified for minor bear and deer violations as consistent with other similar violations. Adds point language for new regulations such as: drone hunting, hunting with natural deer lures and transporting a cocked crossbow in a vehicle. See attached point graphs.

### ***§ 4503. Unlawful equipment, vehicle, forfeiture***

- Applies forfeiture to all serious fish and game and big game violations (taking big game by an illegal means, shooting from a motor vehicle, taking game while under license suspension). Provides that the forfeiture proceeds be directed to the fish and wildlife fund.

### ***§ 4514. Possession of flesh of game and restitution***

- Specifically references restitution in the statute, requires restitution for T&E violations, and specifies minimum restitution amounts.

### ***§ 4517. Destruction of state property***

- Adds restitution to the penalty and includes decoys as well as other VFW property.

**§ 4518. Big game violations**

- Adds T&E species to list and increases fines/penalties for second and subsequent offenses to provide increased consequences for repeat offenders.

**§ 4572. Definitions**

- Adds biological collection violations under the Board rules to the definition of minor violations. Subject to fines but not points or criminal prosecution.

**§ 4616 Felt sole wader ban**

- Repeals ban.

**§ 4708. Interference with hunting, fishing, or trapping**

- Clarifies the prohibition against interfering with hunting, fishing and trapping.

**§ 4781. Big Game. Possession and § 4784. Transportation of big game**

- Clarifies the prohibition against big game possession and transportation.

**§ 5201. NOTICES; POSTING and § 5202. PRIVATE PONDS, STOCKING**

- Deletes references to posting state waters for the taking of fish. Clarifies that private ponds may be posted to prohibit hunting and fishing. Allows the Commissioner to stock private ponds for organizations that allow public use.

DEER

Title	Section	Description	Proposed Points	Current Points
10VSA	4826	Fail to report taking deer doing damage	10	5
10A37	7.7	Cocked crossbow in a motor vehicle	10	New this year
10A37	11.1a	Use of natural urine-based scents/lures	5	New this year

0-5 points in a 5 year period = no loss of license  
10-14 points in a 5 year period = 1 year suspension of all sporting licenses  
15-19 points in a 5 year period = 2 year suspension of all sporting licenses  
20+ points in a 5 year period = 3 year suspension of all sporting licenses

Moose

Title	Section	Description	Proposed Points	Current Points
App 35	All Sections	Failure to report the taking of moose doing damage	10	5
App 33	13.1g	Cocked crossbow in a motor vehicle	10	New this year

- 0-5 points in a 5 year period = no loss of license
- 10-14 points in a 5 year period = 1 year suspension of all sporting licenses
- 15-19 points in a 5 year period = 2 year suspension of all sporting licenses
- 20+ points in a 5 year period = 3 year suspension of all sporting licenses

*BLACK BEAR*

Title	Section	Description	Proposed Points	Current Points
App 7	6.1a	Bear dog permit must be carried at all times	5	20
App 7	6.1b	Permit must specify dogs included	5	20
App 7	6.3a	Control of dogs	5	20
App 7	6.3b	Taking bear with use of an unspecified dog	10	20
App 7	6.3c	Dogs required to have metal ID tag on collar with name etc	5	20
App 7	6.5b	Concerning sub-permittee card use/distribution	5	20

0-5 points in a 5 year period = no loss of license

10-14 points in a 5 year period = 1 year suspension of all sporting licenses

15-19 points in a 5 year period = 2 year suspension of all sporting licenses

20+ points in a 5 year period = 3 year suspension of all sporting licenses

*TURKEY*

Title	Section	Description	Proposed Points	Current Points
App 22a	All sections	Failure to report turkey taken doing damage	10	5
App 22	6.7	Cocked Crossbow in a Motor Vehicle	10	New this year
App 22	6.2	Use or possess shot greater than #2 or smaller than #8	5	20

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 15-19 points in a 5 year period = 2 year suspension of all sporting licenses  
 20+ points in a 5 year period = 3 year suspension of all sporting licenses

# TRAPPING

Title	Section	Description	Proposed Points	Current Points
10A44	(4.3)	Failure to tag trap	5	10
10A44	(4.4)	Failure to tag traps above ice	5	10
10A44	(4.6)	Use of toothed-jawed traps	20	10
10A44	(4.9)	Possession of fur in closed season	5	10
10A44	(4.10)	Possession of raw fur unlawfully taken	5	10
10A44	(4.11)	Taking furbearer with poisonous mixture	20	10
10A44	(4.12)	Taking furbearer from den by digging, cutting, smoking, snaring or by trap	20	10
10A44	(4.14c)	Failure to surrender bobcat, fisher, otter carcasses	5	10
10A44	(4.14e)	Tagging requirement/carcass submission for possessed bobcat, fisher, otter taken doing damage	5	10

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 15-19 points in a 5 year period = 2 year suspension of all sporting licenses  
 20+ points in a 5 year period = 3 year suspension of all sporting licenses

# DRONES & CROSSBOWS

Title	Section	Description	Proposed Points	Current Points
App 20	All sections	Taking wildlife by use of aerial vehicle/drone	20	New this year
App 4	All sections	Bow and arrow standards/Crossbow use	20	5
10VSA	4711	Use of crossbow without a permit	20	5

- 0-5 points in a 5 year period = no loss of license
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- 15-19 points in a 5 year period = 2 year suspension of all sporting licenses
- 20+ points in a 5 year period = 3 year suspension of all sporting licenses