

H.240

Introduced by Representatives Adams of Hartland, Baker of West Rutland,
Bohi of Hartford, Consejo of Sheldon, Fagan of Rutland City,
Helm of Castleton, Higley of Lowell, Howrigan of Fairfield,
Hubert of Milton, Komline of Dorset, Krawczyk of Bennington,
Lewis of Derby, McCullough of Williston, McFaun of Barre
Town, Morley of Barton, Morrissey of Bennington, Peltz of
Woodbury, Rodgers of Glover, Scheuermann of Stowe,
Spengler of Colchester, Webb of Shelburne and Winters of
Williamstown

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Fish and wildlife; fish and wildlife lands; no-net-loss

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to direct the department of fish and
wildlife to maintain baseline acreage of department-controlled hunting lands.

An act relating to no-net-loss of state hunting lands

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

Sec. 1. SHORT TITLE

This act shall be known as the “Hunting Heritage Protection Act of 2009.”

1 Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 4144 is amended to read:

2 ~~§ 4144. ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY BY STATE, CLOSED SEASON~~

3 ~~(a) The secretary with approval of the governor may acquire for the use of~~
4 ~~the state by gift, purchase or lease in the name of the state, lands, ponds or~~
5 ~~streams, and hunting and fishing rights and privileges in any lands or waters in~~
6 ~~the state, with necessary rights of ingress or egress to and from such lands and~~
7 ~~waters.~~

8 ~~(b) The board may regulate the taking of wild animals on such lands or of~~
9 ~~fish in such waters and close or open such waters or lands or any part thereof~~
10 ~~to the taking of fish or wild animals.~~

11 ~~(c) Such regulations shall be posted in the areas affected.~~

12 Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 4147 is amended to read:

13 § 4147. FISH AND WILDLIFE LANDS

14 (a) The secretary with the approval of the governor may acquire for the use
15 of the state by gift, purchase, or lease in the name of the state lands, ponds, or
16 streams, and hunting and fishing rights and privileges in any lands or waters in
17 the state, with necessary rights of ingress or egress to and from such lands and
18 waters.

19 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 166 of Title 29, the secretary
20 with the approval of the governor, may exchange, sell or lease lands under the
21 secretary's jurisdiction when, in his or her judgment, it is advantageous to the

1 state to do so in the highest orderly development of such lands and
2 management of game thereon. Provided, however, such lease, sale, or
3 exchange shall not include oil and gas leases and shall not be contrary to the
4 terms of any contract which has been entered into by the state.

5 (c) The board may regulate the taking of wild animals on such lands or of
6 fish in such waters and close or open such waters or lands or any part thereof
7 to the taking of fish or wild animals. Such regulations shall be posted in the
8 affected areas.

9 (d) In acquiring, exchanging, divesting, or leasing land or regulating the
10 taking of wild animals or fish, the secretary and the board shall ensure, to the
11 greatest extent possible, that there is no-net-loss of acreage available for
12 hunting and fishing on lands and waters under the secretary's jurisdiction.