

Act No. 116 (H.589). Fish and wildlife; hunting; fishing

An act relating to hunting, fishing, and trapping

This act addresses multiple provisions related to hunting, fishing, and wildlife management. The act authorizes the Fish and Wildlife Board beginning in 2015 to set the annual 16-day deer season by rule. The act allows the Fish and Wildlife Board to set the waterfowl bag limits by procedure instead of going through rulemaking.

The act reduces from 100 percent to 60 percent the disability rating that a Vermont resident who is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces must have to qualify for a free hunting, fishing, or combination license. The act excludes captive hunt facilities from the landowner exception to the requirements to have a hunting or fishing license. The act also provides that a person may train a hunting dog and pursue raccoon from June 1 through the day before the opening day of raccoon hunting season.

The act excludes the taking of animals within 25 feet of a Class 4 highway from the prohibition on taking or attempting to take an animal by shooting a firearm, bow, or crossbow within 25 feet of a public highway. The act also adds muzzle loaders to the list of items not to be shot from or across public highways. In addition, the act specifies that the prohibition on shooting across a public highway shall not apply to an established sport shooting range shooting over a Class IV road.

The act authorizes the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife to put excess funds raised through sales of conservation motor vehicle plates toward the Conservation Camp Fund when the funds collected from the sale of the plates exceed the needs of the Nongame Wildlife and Watershed Management accounts. This act designates the Governor Aiken Bucktail Streamer as the State fly-fishing fly and designates the Mount Holly mammoth tooth and tusk as the State terrestrial fossil.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on May 5, 2014