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H.372

Introduced by Representatives Campion of Bennington, Bartholomew of
Hartland, Branagan of Georgia, Christie of Hartford, Conquest
of Newbury, McCullough of Williston, O'Sullivan of
Burlington, Strong of Albany, and Stuart of Brattleboro

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Fish and wildlife; wildlife conservation; migratory birds

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the
Department of Fish and Wildlife to use funds from the Non-Game Wildlife
Fund to conduct a media campaign regarding the impact of feral and
free-ranging cats on populations of migratory birds and other species
vulnerable to cat predation in Vermont.

An act relating to a media campaign regarding the impact of feral and
free-ranging cats on populations of migratory birds and other vulnerable
species in Vermont

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

1 Sec. 1. DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE; FERAL AND
2 FREE-RANGING CAT PREDATION ON MIGRATORY BIRDS
3 AND VULNERABLE SPECIES; MEDIA CAMPAIGN

4 (a) Prior to May 1, 2014, the Department of Fish and Wildlife shall conduct
5 a public media campaign to inform and educate the public on the impact of
6 feral and free-ranging cats on populations of migratory birds and other species
7 vulnerable to cat predation in Vermont. The Department shall consult with
8 interested parties, including the American Birding Conservancy and the
9 Humane Society.

10 (b) The campaign shall include information on:

11 (1) the impact of cat predation on populations of birds and other
12 vulnerable species, including priority species for conservation;

13 (2) the importance of spaying and neutering feral and free-ranging cats,
14 keeping domesticated cats inside, and other methods for feline management;

15 (3) the transfer by cats of parasites, zoonotic, and other diseases to birds
16 and other vulnerable species;

17 (4) suggested methods for local or regional regulations aimed at
18 managing cat predation and conserving populations of migratory birds and
19 other vulnerable species; and

20 (5) other information supporting the purpose of the campaign.

1 (c) The campaign may include direct mailing, radio and television
2 advertising, and print advertising in state and regional newspapers.

3 (d) The Department shall use up to \$15,000.00 from the Non-Game
4 Wildlife Fund in 10 V.S.A. § 4048 for the implementation of the media
5 campaign.

6 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

7 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.