

Act No. 61 (H.5). Fish and wildlife; hunting and fishing licenses; endangered species; gun suppressors

An act relating to hunting, fishing, and trapping

This act amends multiple provisions related to hunting, fishing, trapping, and other authority within the jurisdiction of the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW). The act amends the definition of “bow and arrow” to strike the exclusion of crossbows. The act eliminates Agency origination fees for licensing agents. The act authorizes a Vermont resident with a permanent, severe, physical mobility disability to obtain a free permanent fishing, hunting, or combination license. The act requires persons holding a lifetime or permanent license to notify the DFW in those years they intend to hunt, fish, or trap. The act strikes the requirement that an individual accompanying a mentored hunter sign the mentored hunting license. The act provides that five moose permits shall be set aside for any veteran who served on active duty in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The act authorizes the appointment of three alternate members to the Migratory Waterfowl Advisory Committee. The act authorizes civil enforcement of threatened and endangered species violations. The act repeals agricultural requirements for domestic fur-bearing animal facilities. The act requires the Commissioner of Forests, Parks, and Recreation to report to the General Assembly with recommendations to implement policy options to promote forest integrity. The act also authorizes the manufacture and import of gun suppressors by licensed manufacturers and importers. Similarly, the act authorizes the use of gun suppressors by a person lawfully using a sport shooting range.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 17, 2015