

H.5

An act relating to hunting, fishing, and trapping

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 5 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 5. 10 V.S.A. § 4255(c) is amended to read:

(c) A permanent or free license may be secured on application to the Department by a person qualifying as follows:

\* \* \*

(6) In each year a permanent license holder intends to hunt, trap, or fish, the permanent license holder shall notify the Department that he or she will exercise his or her hunting, trapping, or fishing privileges. Failure to notify the Department as required by this subdivision (c)(6) shall not result in the assessment of points under section 4502 of this title.

Second: By adding a Sec. 5a to read:

Sec. 5a. 10 V.S.A. § 4279 is amended to read:

§ 4279. LIFETIME LICENSES

(a) A resident or nonresident lifetime fishing, hunting, or combination fishing and hunting license may be obtained upon application to the Department.

\* \* \*

(g) In each year a lifetime license holder intends to hunt, trap, or fish, the lifetime license holder shall notify the Department that he or she will exercise his or her hunting, trapping, or fishing privileges. Failure to notify the Department as required by this subsection shall not result in the assessment of points under section 4502 of this title.

Third: By adding a Sec. 14a and accompanying reader assistance to read as follows:

\* \* \* Forest Fragmentation Report \* \* \*

Sec. 14a. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF

VERMONT FOREST FRAGMENTATION REPORT

On or before January 15, 2016, the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and the House Committee on Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources with recommendations for implementing the policy options to promote forest integrity contained within the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation's 2015 Vermont Forest Fragmentation Report. The report shall include proposed legislative changes to implement the recommendations of the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Prior to submitting the report required by this section, the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation shall consult with interested stakeholders.

Fourth: By striking out the reader assistance preceding Sec. 15 and by striking out Sec. 15 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof Secs. 15–19 to read:

\* \* \* Gun Suppressors \* \* \*

Sec. 15. 13 V.S.A. § 4010 is amended to read:

§ 4010. ~~GUN SILENCERS~~ SUPPRESSORS

~~A person who manufactures, sells, uses, or possesses with intent to sell or use an appliance known as or used for a gun silencer shall be fined \$25.00 for each offense. The provisions of this section shall not prevent the use or possession of gun silencers by:~~

~~(1) a Level III certified law enforcement officer or Department of Fish and Wildlife employee in connection with his or her duties and responsibilities and in accordance with the policies and procedures of that officer's or employee's agency or department; or~~

~~(2) the Vermont National Guard in connection with its duties and responsibilities.~~

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Gun suppressor" means any device for silencing, muffling, or diminishing the report of a portable firearm, including any combination of parts, designed or redesigned, and intended for use in assembling or fabricating

a gun suppressor, and any part intended only for use in such assembly or fabrication.

(2) "Sport shooting range" shall have the same meaning as used in 10 V.S.A. § 5227(a).

(b) A person shall not manufacture, make, or import a gun suppressor, except for:

(1) a licensed manufacturer, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921, who is registered as a manufacturer pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 5802;

(2) a licensed importer, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921, who is registered as an importer pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 5802; or

(3) a person who makes a gun suppressor in compliance with the requirements of 26 U.S.C. § 5822.

(c) A person shall not use a gun suppressor in the State, except for use by:

(1) a Level III certified law enforcement officer or Department of Fish and Wildlife employee in connection with his or her duties and responsibilities and in accordance with the policies and procedures of that officer's or employee's agency or department;

(2) the Vermont National Guard in connection with its duties and responsibilities;

(3) a licensed manufacturer or a licensed importer, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921, who is also registered as a manufacturer or an importer

pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 5802, who in the ordinary course of his or her business as a manufacturer or as an importer tests the operation of the gun suppressor; or

(4) a person lawfully using a sport shooting range.

(d)(1) A person who violates subsection (b) of this section shall be fined not less than \$500.00 for each offense.

(2) A person who violates subsection (c) of this section shall be fined \$50 for each offense.

Sec. 16. 10 V.S.A. § 4704 is amended to read:

§ 4704. USE OF MACHINE GUNS AND, AUTOLOADING RIFLES, AND GUN SUPPRESSORS

(a) A person engaged in hunting for wild animals shall not use, carry, or have in his or her possession;

(1) a machine gun of any kind or description ~~or~~;

(2) an autoloading rifle with a magazine capacity of over six cartridges, except a .22 caliber rifle using rim fire cartridges; or

(3) a gun suppressor.

(b) As used in this section, “gun suppressor” means any device for silencing, muffling, or diminishing the report of a portable firearm, including any combination of parts, designed or redesigned, and intended for use in

assembling or fabricating a gun suppressor, and any part intended only for use in such assembly or fabrication.

Sec. 17. 10 V.S.A. § 4502 is amended to read:

§ 4502. UNIFORM POINT SYSTEM; REVOCATION OF LICENSE

(a) A uniform point system ~~which~~ that assigns points to those convicted of a violation of a provision of this part is established. The conviction report from the ~~court~~ Court shall be prima facie evidence of the points assessed. In addition to other penalties assessed for violation of fish and wildlife statutes, the Commissioner shall suspend licenses issued under this part which are held by a person who has accumulated ten or more points in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of this section.

(b) A person violating provisions of this part shall receive points for convictions in accordance with the following schedule (all sections are in Title 10 of Vermont Statutes Annotated):

\* \* \*

(2) Ten points shall be assessed for:

\* \* \*

(G) § 4704. Use of machine guns ~~and~~, autoloading rifles, and gun suppressors

\* \* \*

Sec. 18. 13 V.S.A. § 4010 is amended to read:

§ 4010. GUN SUPPRESSORS

(a) As used in this section:

~~(1) “Gun~~ “gun suppressor” means any device for silencing, muffling, or diminishing the report of a portable firearm, including any combination of parts, designed or redesigned, and intended for use in assembling or fabricating a gun suppressor, and any part intended only for use in such assembly or fabrication.

~~(2) “Sport shooting range” shall have the same meaning as used in 24 V.S.A. § 5227(a).~~

(b) A person shall not manufacture, make, or import a gun suppressor, except for:

(1) a licensed manufacturer, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921, who is registered as a manufacturer pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 5802;

(2) a licensed importer, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921, who is registered as an importer pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 5802; or

(3) a person who makes a gun suppressor in compliance with the requirements of 26 U.S.C. § 5822.

(c) A person shall not use a gun suppressor in the State, except for use by:

(1) a Level III certified law enforcement officer or Department of Fish and Wildlife employee in connection with his or her duties and responsibilities

and in accordance with the policies and procedures of that officer's or employee's agency or department;

(2) the Vermont National Guard in connection with its duties and responsibilities; or

(3) a licensed manufacturer or a licensed importer, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921, who is also registered as a manufacturer or an importer pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 5802, who in the ordinary course of his or her business as a manufacturer or as an importer tests the operation of the gun suppressor; ~~or~~

~~(4) a person lawfully using a sport shooting range.~~

~~(d)(1)~~ A person who violates subsection (b) of this section shall be fined not less than \$500.00 for each offense.

~~(2) A person who violates subsection (c) of this section shall be fined \$50 for each offense.~~

\* \* \* Effective Dates \* \* \*

#### Sec. 19. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on passage, except that:

(1) Secs. 3 (permanent license for persons with disability), 4 (report on permanent license for persons with disability), 6 (mentored hunting license), and 14 (moose permits for veterans) shall take effect on January 1, 2016.



(2) Secs. 15, 16, and 17 (gun suppressors) shall take effect on July 2, 2015.

(3) Sec. 18 (repeal of authorized use of gun suppressor) shall take effect July 1, 2017.