

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources to which was  
3 referred House Bill No. 570 entitled “An act relating to hunting, fishing, and  
4 trapping” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends  
5 that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and  
6 inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 4083 is amended to read:

8 § 4083. FISH

9 Any regulation or amendment thereto adopted pursuant to this subchapter  
10 ~~which~~ that relates to fish may apply to all or any portion of the State and may  
11 ~~do~~ address any or all of the following as to any species or varieties of fish:

12 (1) ~~Establish~~ establish, extend, shorten, or abolish open seasons; and  
13 closed seasons;

14 (2) ~~Establish~~ establish, change, or abolish daily limits, season limits,  
15 possession limits, and size limits;

16 (3) ~~Establish~~ establish and change territorial limits for the pursuit,  
17 taking, or killing of any species or varieties, and close or open lakes, streams,  
18 or parts thereof;

19 (4) ~~Prescribe~~ prescribe the manner and the means of pursuing, taking, or  
20 killing any species or variety, including the prescribing of type or kinds of bait,

1 lures, tackle, equipment, traps, or any other means or devices for taking such  
2 fish;

3 (5) ~~Prescribe~~ prescribe such rules relating to transportation and  
4 exportation of fish as may be necessary for the enforcement of this part;

5 (6) establish rules regarding the purchase and sale of angler caught fish,  
6 including: prohibiting the sale of specified fish; seasons; limits; reporting  
7 requirements; and the manner and means of pursuing or taking fish, in  
8 accordance with the requirements of part 4 of this title.

9 Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 4611 is amended to read:

10 § 4611. SALE OF SALMON, TROUT, AND BLACK BASS

11 (a) A person shall not buy or sell a salmon, trout, lake trout, walleye,  
12 northern pike, muskellunge, ~~or~~ black bass, or any other fish specified by rule  
13 by the Board taken in this State, or imported from another state or country  
14 where sale of such fish is prohibited, except such fish reared in licensed  
15 propagation farms within the State.

16 (b) A person shall not buy or sell fish taken without a permit issued by the  
17 Commissioner, as required under the rules of the Board and the requirements  
18 of part 4 of this title. A propagation farm with a valid permit issued under  
19 10 App. V.S.A. § 117 shall not be required to obtain a permit under this  
20 section.

1 Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 4605 is amended to read:

2 § 4605. PLACING FISH IN WATERS; FISH IMPORTATION PERMITS

3 (a) A person shall not introduce or attempt to introduce:

4 ~~(1) pickerel or northern pike into any waters; or~~

5 ~~(2) any fish, except trout or salmon, into any waters except private~~

6 ponds lacking access to other waters of the State without a permit issued by the  
7 Commissioner under this section or rules adopted by the Commissioner under  
8 subsection (c) of this section.

9 (b) A person shall not bring into the State for the purpose of planting or  
10 introducing, or to plant or introduce, into any of the inland or outlying waters  
11 of the State any live fish or the live spawn thereof, unless, upon application in  
12 writing therefor, the person obtains from the Commissioner a permit so to do.  
13 ~~The permit may include conditions which the Commissioner finds necessary to~~  
14 ~~guard the health of Vermont's fish population.~~

15 (c) The Commissioner may, by rule,:

16 (1) Require a permit to introduce or attempt to introduce specific fish  
17 species into a specific water of the State based on management purposes.

18 (2) Prohibit the introduction or attempt at introduction of fish to specific  
19 waters of the State based on management purposes, ecosystem considerations,  
20 or the health and safety of Vermont's fish population.

1           (3) ~~adopt~~ Adopt a list of fish which, if introduced into Vermont waters,  
2           have the potential to cause harm to the fish population of the State. A person  
3           shall not possess or bring into the State any fish on the list unless the person  
4           has received a permit issued pursuant to this subsection. The Commissioner  
5           may issue a permit allowing importation and possession of a fish on the list,  
6           provided the fish is to be kept in a controlled situation and used for a public  
7           purpose such as research or education. ~~A permit issued under this subsection~~  
8           ~~shall include conditions that ensure the health and safety of Vermont's fish~~  
9           ~~population.~~

10           (d) Applicants shall pay a permit fee of \$50.00. The Commissioner or duly  
11           authorized agents, shall make such investigation and inspection of the fish as  
12           they may deem necessary and then the importation permit may be granted  
13           pursuant to regulations which the Board shall prescribe. The Commissioner  
14           may waive the permit fee required under this subsection for organizations  
15           cooperating or partnering with the Department. The Commissioner or duly  
16           authorized agents shall make a determination on the permit within 10 days of  
17           receiving the application. The Department may dispose of unlawfully  
18           imported fish as it may judge best, and the State may collect damages from the  
19           violation of this subsection for all expenses incurred.

20           (e) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the Board, the Commissioner, or  
21           their duly authorized agents from bringing into the State for the purpose of

1 planting, introducing, or stocking, or from planting, introducing, or stocking  
2 any fish in the State.

3 (f) In any permit issued under this section, the Commissioner may include  
4 conditions that ensure the health and safety of Vermont's fish population.

5 Sec. 4. 10 V.S.A. § 4501 is amended to read:

6 § 4501. AIDING IN VIOLATIONS; SHARING IN PROCEEDS

7 A person who drives, transports, scouts, counsels, or otherwise aids another  
8 person in a violation of a provision of this part, or who knowingly possesses,  
9 consumes, or otherwise shares in the proceeds of such a violation by receiving  
10 or possessing fish or wild animals, or any parts thereof, shall be punished as a  
11 principal.

12 Sec. 5. 10 V.S.A. § 4502 is amended to read:

13 § 4502. UNIFORM POINT SYSTEM; REVOCATION OF LICENSE

14 \* \* \*

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

18 (1) Five Except for biological collection violation determined to be  
19 nonpoint violations under the rules of the Board, five points shall be assessed  
20 for any violation of statutes or rules adopted under this part except those listed  
21 in subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection.

1 (2) Ten points shall be assessed for:

2 (Y) Appendix § 2; Appendix § 33, section 14.3. Reporting of deer,  
3 bear big game

4

5 \* \* \*

6 (GG) Appendix § 44. Trapping, except for violations of Appendix  
7 § 44, sections 4.3, 4.4, 4.6, 4.9, 4.10, 4.11, 4.14(c), and 4.14(e)

8 (HH) § 4827. A Taking black bear doing damage

9 \* \* \*

10 (NN) § 4826. Taking deer doing damage

11 (OO) § 22a. Taking turkey doing damage

12 (PP) § 35. Taking moose doing damage

13 (QQ) Appendix § 22, section 6.7; Appendix § 33, section 13.1(g);

14 Appendix § 37, section 7.7. Possession or transport of a cocked crossbow in or

15 on a motor vehicle, motorboat, airplane, snowmobile, or other motor-propelled

16 vehicle

17 (RR) Appendix § 7, section 6.3(b). Hunting bear with any dog not

18 listed on the permit

19 (SS) Appendix § 37, section 9.0. Feeding deer.

20 (3) Twenty points shall be assessed for:

21 \* \* \*



1 ~~completed a remedial course designed to teach hunters, trappers, and anglers~~  
2 ~~correct legal and ethical behavior while hunting, trapping, and fishing in~~  
3 ~~Vermont. The remedial course shall be approved by the Commissioner and~~  
4 ~~conducted by the Department. The fee for the remedial course shall be~~  
5 ~~\$100.00. Funds collected for the course shall be deposited in the Fish and~~  
6 ~~Wildlife Fund. [Repealed.]~~

7 Sec. 6. 10 V.S.A. § 4503 is amended to read:

8 § 4503. UNLAWFUL EQUIPMENT, VEHICLE, FORFEITURE

9 A person convicted of violating the provisions of section ~~4518, 4747 or~~  
10 ~~4606, 4705(a), or 4280~~ of this title ~~relating to taking big game by illegal~~  
11 ~~means~~, shall forfeit to the State Department of Fish and Wildlife the firearms,  
12 jacks, artificial lights, motor vehicle, or any other device used in ~~the taking or~~  
13 ~~transporting of big game~~ committing the violation. Forfeiture of a motor  
14 vehicle under this section shall not apply to the illegal taking, possessing, or  
15 transporting of wild turkey or anadromous Atlantic salmon ~~under this section~~  
16 or to violations of subsection 4705(a) of this title. Proceeds from the sale of  
17 items or equipment forfeited under this section shall be deposited in the Fish  
18 and Wildlife Fund.

1 Sec. 7. 10 V.S.A. § 4514 is amended to read:

2 § 4514. POSSESSION OF FLESH OF GAME; RESTITUTION

3 (a) When legally taken, the flesh of a fish or wild animal may be possessed  
4 for food for a reasonable time thereafter and such flesh may be transported and  
5 stored in a public cold storage plant. Nothing in this section shall authorize the  
6 possession of game birds or carcasses or parts thereof contrary to regulations  
7 made pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

8 (b) Any person convicted of illegally taking, destroying, or possessing wild  
9 animals or threatened or endangered species shall, in addition to other penalties  
10 provided under this chapter, pay restitution in the following amounts into the  
11 Fish and Wildlife Fund for each animal taken, destroyed, or possessed, ~~no~~  
12 ~~more than the following amounts:~~

- |    |                                      |  |
|----|--------------------------------------|--|
| 13 | (1) Big game                         | <u>no more than \$2,000.00</u>         |
| 14 |                                      | <u>and no less than \$500.00</u>       |
| 15 |                                      | each                                   |
| 16 | (2) Endangered or threatened species | <del>\$2,000</del> <u>no more than</u> |
| 17 | as defined in section 5401 of this   | <u>\$2,000.00 and no less than</u>     |
| 18 | title                                | <u>\$500.00</u> each                   |
| 19 | (3) Small game                       | <u>no more than \$500.00 and</u>       |
| 20 |                                      | <u>no less than \$50.00</u> each       |



1 Sec. 9. 10 V.S.A. § 4518 is amended to read:

2 § 4518. BIG GAME VIOLATIONS; THREATENED AND ENDANGERED  
3 SPECIES; SUSPENSION; VIOLATIONS

4 Whoever violates a provision of this part or orders or rules of the Board  
5 relating to taking, possessing, transporting, buying, or selling of big game or  
6 relating to threatened or endangered species shall be fined not more than  
7 \$1,000.00 nor less than \$400.00 or imprisoned for not more than 60 days, or  
8 both. Upon a second and all subsequent convictions or any conviction while  
9 under license suspension related to the requirements of part 4 of this title, the  
10 violator shall be fined not more than ~~\$2,000.00~~ \$4,000.00 nor less than  
11 ~~\$1,000.00~~ \$2,000.00 or imprisoned for not less than five days but not more  
12 than 60 days, or both.

13 Sec. 10. 10 V.S.A. § 4572 is amended to read:

14 § 4572. DEFINITIONS

15 (a) As used in this subchapter, a minor fish and wildlife violation means:

16 (1) a violation of 10 V.S.A. § 4145 (violation of access and landing area  
17 rules);

18 (2) a violation of 10 V.S.A. § 4251 (taking wild animals and fish  
19 without a license);

20 (3) a violation of 10 V.S.A. § 4266 (failure to carry a license on person  
21 or failure to exhibit license);

1 (4) a violation of 10 V.S.A. § 4267 (false statements in license  
2 application; altering license; transferring license to another person; using  
3 another person’s license; or guiding an unlicensed person);

4 (5) a violation of 10 V.S.A. § 4713 (tree or ground stands or blinds); ~~or~~

5 (6) a violation of 10 V.S.A. § 4616 (use of external felt-soled boots or  
6 external felt-soled waders); or

7 (7) a violation of a biological collection rule adopted by the Board under  
8 part 4 of this title.

9 (b) “Bureau” means the Judicial Bureau as created in 4 V.S.A. § 1102.

10 Sec. 11. 10 V.S.A. § 4616 is amended to read:

11 § 4616. ~~FELT SOLED BOOTS AND WADERS; USE PROHIBITED~~

12 ~~It is unlawful to use external felt-soled boots or external felt-soled waders in~~  
13 ~~the waters of Vermont, except that a state or federal employee or emergency~~  
14 ~~personnel, including fire, law enforcement, and EMT personnel, may use~~  
15 ~~external felt-soled boots or external felt-soled waders in the discharge of~~  
16 ~~official duties. [Repealed.]~~

17 Sec. 12. 10 V.S.A. § 4708 is amended to read:

18 § 4708. INTERFERENCE WITH HUNTING, FISHING, OR TRAPPING

19 (a) A person shall not intentionally interfere with the lawful taking of fish  
20 or wild animals by ~~another nor intentionally harass, drive, or disturb fish or any~~  
21 ~~wild animal for the purpose of disrupting the lawful taking of the same.~~

1 ~~Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit any incidental~~  
2 ~~interference arising from lawful activity by land users including farmers and~~  
3 ~~recreationists.~~

4 ~~(b) A person shall not take, injure, destroy, or wilfully interfere with:~~

5 ~~(1) a trap, when lawfully set for the purpose of taking wild animals; or~~

6 ~~(2) wilfully interfere with a person in the act of trapping animals;~~

7 ~~(1) tampering with traps, nets, bait, firearms, or any other thing used for~~  
8 ~~hunting, trapping, or fishing;~~

9 ~~(2) placing himself or herself in a position, for the purpose of~~  
10 ~~interfering, that hinders or prevents hunting, trapping, or fishing; or~~

11 ~~(3) engaging in an activity, for the purpose of interfering, that drives,~~  
12 ~~harasses, disturbs, or is likely to disturb wildlife or fish.~~

13 ~~(b) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit an incidental~~  
14 ~~interference arising from lawful activity by landowners or users of land,~~  
15 ~~including farmers and recreationists.~~

16 Sec. 13. 10 V.S.A. § 4781 is amended to read:

17 § 4781. BIG GAME; POSSESSION

18 A person shall not possess big game ~~except during the open season and for~~  
19 ~~a reasonable time thereafter unless otherwise provided, and then only such as~~  
20 ~~can be legally taken. A person shall not possess big game taken by any illegal~~  
21 ~~devices, nor any big game taken in closed season taken by unlawful means or~~

1 methods or taken in a closed season in violation of any provision of part 4 of  
2 this title or rules of the Board. Unless otherwise prohibited, a person may  
3 possess lawfully taken game during the open season and for a reasonable time  
4 thereafter.

5 Sec. 14. 10 V.S.A. § 4784 is amended to read:

6 § 4784. TRANSPORTATION OF BIG GAME

7 A person shall not transport big game taken by any illegal devices, or taken  
8 in closed season. A person shall not transport a wild deer with antlers less than  
9 three inches in length except deer taken under the provisions of this title by  
10 unlawful means or methods or taken in a closed season in violation of any  
11 provision of part 4 of this title or rules of the Board.

12 Sec. 15. 10 V.S.A. § 5201 is amended to read:

13 § 5201. NOTICES; POSTING

14 (a)(1) An owner, or a person having the exclusive right to take ~~fish or wild~~  
15 ~~animals~~ game upon land or the waters thereon, who desires to protect his or her  
16 land or ~~waters~~ private pond or propagation farm over which he or she has  
17 exclusive control, may maintain notices stating that:

18 (A) the shooting, trapping, or taking of game or wild animals is  
19 prohibited or is by permission only;

20 (B) fishing or the taking of fish is prohibited or is by permission  
21 only;

1           (C) fishing, hunting, trapping, ~~and or~~ taking of ~~wild animals and fish~~  
2 ~~are game~~ is prohibited or ~~are~~ is by permission only.

3           (2) “Permission only signs” authorized under this section shall contain  
4 the owner’s name and a method by which to contact the property owner or a  
5 person authorized to provide permission to hunt, fish, or trap on the property.

6           (b) Notices prohibiting the taking of ~~wild animals~~ game shall be erected  
7 upon or near the boundaries of lands to be affected with notices at each corner  
8 and not over 400 feet apart along the boundaries thereof. ~~Notices prohibiting~~  
9 ~~the taking of fish shall show the date that the waters were last stocked and shall~~  
10 ~~be maintained upon or near the shores of the waters not over 400 feet apart.~~  
11 Legible signs must be maintained at all times and shall be dated each year.  
12 These signs shall be of a standard size and design as the Commissioner shall  
13 specify.

14           (c) The owner or person posting the lands shall record this posting annually  
15 in the town clerk’s office of the town in which the land is located. The  
16 recording form shall be furnished by the Commissioner and shall be filled out  
17 in triplicate, one copy to be retained by the town clerk, one copy to the  
18 Commissioner, and one copy to be retained by the person having the right to  
19 post the lands. The forms shall contain the information as to the approximate  
20 number of acres posted, location in town, date of posting, and signature of  
21 person so posting the lands. The town clerk shall file the record and it shall be

1 open to public inspection. The town clerk shall retain a fee of \$5.00 for this  
2 recording.

3 (d) Land posted as provided in subsection (b) of this section shall be  
4 enclosed land for the purposes herein.

5 Sec. 16. 10 V.S.A. § 5202 is amended to read:

6 § 5202. PRIVATE PRESERVES PONDS, STOCKING, AFFIDAVIT

7 ~~(a) To post a stream as a private preserve under section 5201 of this title, a~~  
8 ~~person annually shall:~~

9 ~~(1) Stock the waters of each half mile of stream with at least 1,000 fry,~~  
10 ~~600 advanced fry, 300 fingerlings, or 150 fish, each not less than six inches in~~  
11 ~~length.~~

12 ~~(2) File with the Commissioner and the town clerk of the town in which~~  
13 ~~the waters lie, immediately after stocking the waters, a sworn affidavit~~  
14 ~~declaring that the provisions of this section have been complied with. The~~  
15 ~~affidavit shall identify the number and kind of fish placed in the waters, the~~  
16 ~~date they were purchased, and the person from whom they were purchased.~~

17 ~~(b) When land or waters are stocked by the State with fish, wild animals, or~~  
18 ~~game, with the knowledge and consent of the owner, the owner may not~~  
19 ~~prohibit the taking of fish, wild animals, or game under section 5201 of this~~  
20 ~~title. However, the The Commissioner may, at his or her discretion, stock a~~  
21 ~~private fishing preserve which pond that allows some charitable or nonprofit~~

1 organizations to use the area at no charge. In that case, the owner may prohibit  
2 the taking of fish or game by the general public under section 5201 of this title.

3 **Sec. 17. REPEAL**

4 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 61, Sec. 18 (repeal of authorized use of gun  
5 suppressors at sport shooting ranges) is repealed.

6 **Sec. 18. EFFECTIVE DATES**

7 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2016, except that Secs. 1 (regulation of  
8 fish), 2 (commercial sale of fish), and 3 (importation and stocking of fish) shall  
9 take effect on January 1, 2017.

10

11

12 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

13

\_\_\_\_\_

14

Representative \_\_\_\_\_

15

FOR THE COMMITTEE