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**Act No. 170 (H.636). Fish and wildlife; licensing; enforcement; incidental trapping; coyote competitions**

**An act relating to miscellaneous fish and wildlife subjects**

This act amends several fish and wildlife laws. The Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife (Commissioner) is authorized to designate information as confidential if its release could harm a species or its habitat. The Agency of Natural Resources may convey, exchange, sell, or lease lands owned by the Department of Fish and Wildlife to resolve trespass or boundary issues. A license agent shall retain a \$1.50 filing for each lottery application processed.

A federal waterfowl stamp and a State waterfowl stamp are required to hunt migratory waterfowl. The act clarifies what constitutes a “fish and wildlife violation.” Muzzle-loading shotguns are added to the list of weapons that may not be fired from a motor vehicle, and a person who possesses a crossbow, muzzle-loading rifle, or muzzle-loading shotgun in a motor vehicle is required to show the weapon to a law enforcement officer if asked.

A person shall not transport into, transport within, transport through, or possess in the State a wild bird or wild animal without the Commissioner’s authorization. Similarly, a person is prohibited from: bringing into the State wildlife illegally taken out of State; placing a Vermont wildlife tag on wildlife taken out of State; or reporting in Vermont big game taken out of State.

The act requires a person who incidentally traps a dog or cat to notify the Commissioner. The Commissioner shall keep records of all trapped dogs and cats. A person who traps for compensation is required by the act to have a trapping license.

A person shall not hold or participate in a coyote hunting competition. A person shall be fined no more than \$1,000 nor less than \$400 for holding or participating in a coyote hunting competition. A person shall receive 10 points on their hunting license for participating in a coyote hunting competition and 20 points for holding a coyote hunting competition. The Commissioner shall review criminal and civil charges for fish and wildlife violations.

Multiple effective dates, beginning May 22, 2018