1	TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:
2	The Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife to which was
3	referred House Bill No. 636 entitled "An act relating to miscellaneous fish and
4	wildlife subjects" respectfully reports that it has considered the same and
5	recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting
6	clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:
7	* * * Information Collection * * *
8	Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 4132 is amended to read:
9	§ 4132. GENERAL DUTIES OF COMMISSIONER
10	(a) The Commissioner shall have charge of the enforcement of the
11	provisions of this part.
12	* * *
13	(f) The Commissioner may collect data, conduct scientific research, and
14	contract with qualified consultants for the purposes of managing fish and
15	wildlife in the State and achieving the requirements and policies of this part.
16	The Commissioner may designate as confidential any data, records, or
17	information produced or acquired by staff or contractors in the conduct of
18	study or research related to fish and wild flora and fauna, but only if such
19	documents present a threat to a species. Such data, records, or information
20	shall be disclosed if published or publicly released by the Department or its
21	authorized agents.

1	* * * Acquisition of Property; Grants * * *
2	Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 4144(a) is amended to read:
3	(a) The secretary Secretary with approval of the Governor may acquire for
4	the use of the State Department of Fish and Wildlife by gift, purchase, or lease
5	in the name of the State, any and all rights and interests in lands, ponds, or
6	streams, and hunting and fishing rights and privileges in any lands or waters in
7	the State, with and the necessary rights of ingress or egress to and from such
8	lands and waters. The Secretary's authority to acquire property interests under
9	this section shall include all of the interests that may be acquired under
10	subsection 6303(a) of this title.
11	Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 4147 is amended to read:
12	§ 4147. FISH AND WILDLIFE LANDS
13	(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of 29 V.S.A. § 166, the Secretary with
14	the approval of the Governor, may <u>convey</u> , exchange, sell, or lease lands under
15	the Secretary's jurisdiction of the Department of Fish and Wildlife for one or
16	more of the following purposes:
17	(1) resolving trespass issues and implementing boundary line
18	adjustments and right-of-way and deed corrections, provided that the transfers
19	are advantageous to the State;
20	(2) implementing the acquisition of new lands for conservation and
21	public recreation when, in his or her judgment, it is advantageous to the State

1	to do so in the highest orderly development of such lands and management of
2	game thereon.
3	(b) Provided, however, such The lease, sale, or exchange of lands under
4	this section shall not include oil and gas leases and shall not be contrary to the
5	terms of any contract which that has been entered into by the State.
6	Sec. 4. 32 V.S.A. § 5 is amended to read:
7	§ 5. ACCEPTANCE OF GRANTS
8	(a) No original of any grant, gift, loan, or any sum of money or thing of
9	value may be accepted by any agency, department, commission, board, or
10	other part of State government except as follows:
11	* * *
12	(3)(A) This section shall not apply to the following items, if the
13	acceptance of those items will not incur additional expense to the State or
14	create an ongoing requirement for funds, services, or facilities:
15	(i) the acceptance of grants, gifts, donations, loans, or other things
16	of value with a value of \$5,000.00 or less;
17	(ii) the acceptance by the Department of Forests, Parks and
18	Recreation and the Department of Fish and Wildlife of grants, gifts, donations,
19	loans, or other things of value with a value of \$15,000.00 or less; or

1	(iii) the acceptance by the Vermont Veterans' Home of grants,
2	gifts, donations, loans, or other things of value with a value of \$10,000.00 or
3	less <u>; or</u>
4	(iv) the acceptance by the Department of Fish and Wildlife of
5	grants, gifts, donations, loans, or other things of value with a value of
6	\$15,000.00 or less, except for real estate or grants related to the acquisition of
7	real estate.
8	(B) The Secretary of Administration and Joint Fiscal Office shall be
9	promptly notified of the source, value, and purpose of any items received
10	under this subdivision (3). The Joint Fiscal Office shall report all such items to
11	the Joint Fiscal Committee quarterly. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d)
12	(expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under
13	this subdivision.
14	* * *
15	* * * Licensing; Lottery Applications * * *
16	Sec. 5. 10 V.S.A. § 4254(e) is amended to read:
17	(e) The Commissioner shall establish:
18	(1) license agencies, for the sale and distribution of licenses or lottery
19	applications for licenses, including any town clerk who desires to sell licenses
20	or process lottery applications for licenses;

1	(2) the number, type, and location of license agencies, other than town
2	clerk agencies;
3	(3) the qualifications of all agencies and agents except town clerks;
4	(4) controls for the inventory, safeguarding, issue, and recall of all
5	licensing materials;
6	(5) the times and methods for reporting the sale and issuance of all
7	licenses;
8	(6) procedures for accounting for and return of all monies and
9	negotiable documents due the Department from agencies in accordance with
10	the provisions of this title and Title 32 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated;
11	(7) procedures for the audit of all license programs and license agency
12	transactions and the proper retention and inspection of all accounting and
13	inventory records related to the sale or issuance of licenses;
14	(8) procedures for the suspension of any license agent or agency,
15	including a town clerk agent, for noncompliance with the provisions of this
16	title, any written agreement between the agent and the Department, or any
17	licensing rule established by the Department;
18	(9) that for each license <u>or lottery application</u> , \$1.50 of the fee is a filing
19	fee that may be retained by the agent, except for the super sport license for
20	which \$5.00 of the fee is a filing fee that may be retained by the agent; and

1	(10) that for licenses, lottery applications, and tags issued where the
2	Department does not receive any part of the fee, \$1.50 may be charged as a
3	filing fee and retained by the agent.
4	* * * Migratory Waterfowl Stamp Program * * *
5	Sec. 6. 10 V.S.A. § 4277 is amended to read:
6	§ 4277. MIGRATORY WATERFOWL STAMP PROGRAM
7	(a) Definitions. As used in this section:
8	(1) "Migratory waterfowl" means all waterfowl species in the family
9	anatidae, including wild ducks, geese, brant, and swans.
10	(2) "Stamp" means the State migratory waterfowl hunting stamp
11	furnished by the Department of Fish and Wildlife as provided for in this
12	section and the federal migratory waterfowl stamp furnished by the
13	U.S. Department of the Interior.
14	(b) Waterfowl stamp required. No person 16 years of age or older shall
15	attempt to take or take any migratory waterfowl in this State without first
16	obtaining a State and federal migratory waterfowl stamp for the current year in
17	addition to a regular hunting license as provided by section 4251 of this title.
18	A stamp shall not be transferable. The State stamp year shall run from
19	January 1 to December 31.
20	(c) Waterfowl stamp design, production, and distribution. The
21	Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife shall be responsible for the design,

1	production, procurement, distribution, and sale of all stamps the State stamp
2	and all marketable stamp byproducts by-products such as posters, artwork,
3	calendars, and other items.
4	(d) Fee. Stamps State stamps shall be sold at the direction of the
5	Commissioner for a fee of \$7.50. The issuing agent may retain a fee of \$1.00
6	for each stamp and shall remit \$6.50 of each fee to the Department of Fish and
7	Wildlife. The Commissioner shall establish a uniform sale price for all
8	categories of byproducts by-products.
9	(e) Disposition of waterfowl receipts. All State waterfowl stamp receipts
10	and all receipts from the sale of State stamp byproducts by-products shall be
11	deposited in the Fish and Wildlife Fund. All State stamp and byproducts by-
12	products receipts shall be expended through the appropriation process for
13	waterfowl acquisition and improvement projects.
14	(f) Advisory committee Committee. There is hereby created a the
15	Migratory Waterfowl Advisory Committee which shall consist of five persons
16	and up to three alternates appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the
17	Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife. The Commissioner shall designate a the
18	Chair. The Committee shall be consulted with and may make
19	recommendations to the Commissioner in regard to all projects and activities
20	supported with the funds derived from the implementation of this section. The

1	Commissioner shall make an annual financial and progress report to the
2	Committee with regard to all activities authorized by this section.
3	* * * Forfeiture * * *
4	Sec. 7. 10 V.S.A. § 4505 is amended to read:
5	§ 4505. HEARING; FORFEITURE
6	The game warden or other officer shall retain possession of firearms, jacks,
7	lights, motor vehicles, and devices taken until final disposition of the charge
8	against the owner, possessor, or person using the same in violation of the
9	provisions of section <u>4745, 4781, 4783, 4784, 4705(a), 4280, 4747,</u> or 4606 of
10	this title, in accordance with the provisions of section 4503 of this title. When
11	the owner, possessor, or person using firearms, jacks, lights, motor vehicles,
12	and devices in violation of the section is convicted of the offense, the court
13	where the conviction is had shall cause the owner, if known, and possessor,
14	and all persons having the custody of or exercising any control over the
15	firearms, jacks, lights, motor vehicles, and devices seized, either as principal,
16	clerk, servant, or agent and the respondent to appear and show cause, if any
17	they have, why a forfeiture or condemnation order should not issue. The
18	hearings may be held as a collateral proceeding to the trial of the respondent in
19	the discretion of the court.

* * * Enforcement; Violations * * *
Sec. 8. 10 V.S.A. § 4551 is amended to read:
§ 4551. FISH AND WILDLIFE VIOLATION DEFINED
A violation of any provision of this part, other than a violation for which a
term of imprisonment may be imposed, or a minor violation as defined in
section 4572 of this title, or a violation of a rule adopted under this part shall
be known as a fish and wildlife violation.
Sec. 9. 10 V.S.A. § 4705 is amended to read:
§ 4705. SHOOTING FROM MOTOR VEHICLES OR AIRCRAFT;
SHOOTING FROM OR ACROSS HIGHWAY; PERMIT
(a) A person shall not take, or attempt to take, a wild animal by shooting
from a motor vehicle, motorboat, airplane, snowmobile, or other motor
propelled motor-propelled craft or any vehicle drawn by a motor propelled
motor-propelled vehicle except as permitted under subsection (e) of this
section.
(b) A person shall not carry or possess while in or on a vehicle propelled by
mechanical power or drawn by a vehicle propelled by mechanical power
within the right of way right-of-way of a public highway a rifle or shotgun
containing a loaded cartridge or shell in the chamber, mechanism, or in a

- magazine, or clip within a rifle or shotgun; a crossbow loaded with a bolt or
- arrow; or a muzzle-loading rifle or muzzle-loading shotgun that has been

Page 9 of 25

VT LEG #329637 v.1

1	charged with powder and projectile and the ignition system of which has been
2	enabled by having an affixed or attached percussion cap, primer, battery, or
3	priming powder, except as permitted under subsections (d) and (e) of this
4	section. A person who possesses a rifle, crossbow, or shotgun, including a
5	muzzle-loading rifle or muzzle-loading shotgun, in or on a vehicle propelled
6	by mechanical power, or drawn by a vehicle propelled by mechanical power
7	within a right of way <u>right-of-way</u> of a public highway shall upon demand of
8	an enforcement officer exhibit the firearm for examination to determine
9	compliance with this section.
10	(c) A person while on or within 25 feet of the traveled portion of a public
11	highway, except a public highway designated Class 4 on a town highway map,
12	shall not take or attempt to take any wild animal by shooting a firearm, a
13	muzzle loader, a bow and arrow, or a crossbow. A person while on or within
14	the traveled portion of <u>a</u> public highway designated Class 4 on a town highway
15	map shall not take or attempt to take any wild animal by shooting a firearm, a
16	muzzle loader, a bow and arrow, or a crossbow. A person shall not shoot a
17	firearm, <u>a</u> muzzle loader, a bow and arrow, or a crossbow over or across the
18	traveled portion of a public highway, except for a person shooting over or
19	across the traveled portion of a public highway from a sport shooting range, as
20	that term is defined in section 5227 of this title, provided that:
21	(1) the sport shooting range was established before January 1, 2014; and

VT LEG #329637 v.1

1	(2) the operators of the sport shooting range post signage warning users
2	of the public highway of the potential danger from the sport shooting range.
3	(d) This section shall not restrict the possession or use of a loaded firearm
4	by an enforcement officer in performance of his or her duty.
5	* * *
6	Sec. 10. 10 V.S.A. § 4709 is amended to read:
7	§ 4709. TRANSPORT, IMPORTATION, POSSESSION, AND STOCKING
8	OF WILD ANIMALS; POSSESSION OF WILD BOAR
9	(a) A person shall not bring into the State, transport into, transport within,
10	transport through, or possess in the State any live wild bird or animal of any
11	kind, unless, upon application in writing therefor, the person obtains without a
12	permit from the Commissioner a permit to do so except for the transport of an
13	injured live wild bird or animal to a veterinarian or wildlife rehabilitation
14	center. The importation permit may be granted under such regulations therefor
15	as the Board Commissioner shall prescribe and only after the Commissioner
16	has made such investigation and inspection of the birds or animals as she or he
17	may deem necessary. The Department may dispose of unlawfully possessed or
18	imported wildlife as it may judge best, and the State may collect treble
19	damages from the violator of this subsection for all expenses incurred.

1	(b) No person shall bring into the State from another country, state, or
2	province wildlife illegally taken, transported, or possessed contrary to the laws
3	governing the country, state, or province from which the wildlife originated.
4	(c) No person shall place a Vermont-issued tag on wildlife taken outside
5	the State. No person shall report big game in Vermont when the wildlife is
6	taken outside the State.
7	(d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the Commissioner or duly
8	authorized agents of the Department of Fish and Wildlife from bringing into
9	the State for the purpose of planting, introducing, or stocking, or from planting,
10	introducing, or stocking in the State, any wild bird or animal.
11	(c)(e) Applicants shall pay a permit fee of \$100.00.
12	(d)(f)(1) The Commissioner shall not issue a permit under this section for
13	the importation or possession of the following live species, a hybrid or genetic
14	variant of the following species, offspring of the following species, or
15	offspring or a hybrid of a genetically engineered variant of the following
16	species: wild boar, wild hog, wild swine, feral pig, feral hog, feral swine, old
17	world swine, razorback, Eurasian wild boar, or Russian wild boar (Sus scrofo
18	Linnaeus).
19	(2) This subsection shall not apply to the domestic pig (Sus domesticus)
20	involved in domestic hog production and shall not restrict or limit the authority
21	of the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets to regulate the importation

1	or possession of the domestic pig as livestock or as a domestic animal under
2	Title 6 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated.
3	* * * Incidental Trapping * * *
4	Sec. 11. 10 V.S.A. § 4254a is amended to read:
5	§ 4254a. TRAPPING LICENSES
6	(a) A resident, resident youth aged 17 years of age or under on the date of
7	license purchase, or nonresident trapping license may be issued to any person,
8	provided that the applicant prior to issue first presents:
9	(1) a certificate of satisfactory completion of a trapper education course
10	or its equivalent approved by the Commissioner; or
11	(2) a certificate of satisfactory completion of a trapper education course
12	in another state or a province of Canada which that is approved by the
13	Commissioner; or
14	(3) a trapping license issued for this State or any other state or \underline{a}
15	province of Canada and valid for any license year; or
16	(4) other satisfactory proof that the applicant has previously held a valid
17	trapping license.
18	(b) The Commissioner shall provide for a course of basic instruction in
19	trapper education. For this purpose, the Commissioner may cooperate with
20	any reputable association, organization, or agency and may designate any
21	person found by the Commissioner to be competent to give such instruction. A

1	person so designated shall give such instruction and upon the successful
2	completion thereof shall issue to a person satisfactorily completing the course
3	of instruction a certificate in evidence thereof of completion. No fee may be
4	charged for taking a course of instruction provided for under this subsection.
5	(c) Any person who incidentally traps any fur-bearing animal for which the
6	trapping season is closed, any wildlife for which trapping is not a legal manner
7	of taking, or any domestic animal shall, in the event of live capture of the fur-
8	bearing animal or wildlife, release the fur-bearing animal, wildlife, or domestic
9	animal immediately. In the event of a live capture of a domestic animal, the
10	person who incidentally trapped the animal shall contact the owner of the
11	domestic animal if the owner's contact identification is readily available.
12	(d) In the event of mortality resulting from the trapping of a fur-bearing
13	animal, wildlife, or domestic animal, the person who set the trap shall notify
14	the Commissioner within 24 hours after discovery of the trapped fur-bearing
15	animal, other wildlife, or domestic animal and, if requested, shall deliver the
16	carcass of the fur-bearing animal, wildlife, or domestic animal to the
17	Department.
18	(e) The Commissioner shall establish by procedure requirements for the
19	killing of live captured fur-bearing animals and other wildlife, provided that
20	the requirements:

1	(1) shall incorporate the relevant recommendations of the 2013 report of
2	the American Veterinary Medical Association panel on euthanasia; and
3	(2) shall allow for the use of specific methods of killing animals that
4	present an imminent threat to human health or safety.
5	* * * Trapping; Nuisance Wildlife * * *
6	Sec. 12. 10 V.S.A. § 4828 is amended to read:
7	§ 4828. TAKING OF RABBIT OR FUR-BEARING ANIMALS <u>NUISANCE</u>
8	WILDLIFE BY LANDOWNER; SELECTBOARD; CERTIFICATE;
9	PENALTY
10	(a)(1) The provisions of law or regulations rules of the Board relating to the
11	taking of rabbits or fur bearing animals <u>nuisance wildlife</u> shall not apply to <u>:</u>
12	(A) an owner, the owner's employee, <u>a</u> tenant, <u>a nuisance wildlife</u>
13	control operator, or a caretaker of property protecting the property from
14	damage by rabbits or fur-bearing animals, nuisance wildlife;
15	(B) a person protecting a domestic animal, domestic fowl, or
16	domestic pet from attack, worrying, or wounding by nuisance wildlife; or
17	(\underline{C}) to the selectboard of a town protecting public highways or
18	bridges from such damage or submersion with the permission of the owner of
19	lands affected.
20	(2) However, if required by rule of the board, an A property owner,
21	employee, tenant, or <u>nuisance wildlife control operator</u> , caretaker, <u>the owner of</u>

1	a domestic animal, domestic fowl, or domestic pet, or the members a member
2	of the selectboard, who desire to possess during the closed season the skins of
3	any fur bearing animals taken takes a nuisance or other wildlife in defense of
4	property, highways, or bridges or in defense of domestic animals, domestic
5	fowl, or domestic pets shall notify the Commissioner or the Commissioner's
6	representative within 84 24 hours after taking such animal the nuisance or
7	other wildlife, and shall hold such pelts the pelt of the nuisance or other
8	wildlife for inspection by such the Commissioner's authorized representatives.
9	(b) Before disposing of such pelts taken under this section, if required by
10	rule of the Board, the property owner, employee, tenant, nuisance wildlife
11	control operator, caretaker, or selectboard shall secure from the Commissioner
12	or a designee a certificate describing the pelts, and showing that the pelts were
13	legally taken during a closed season and in defense of property, highways, or
14	bridges or in defense of domestic animals, domestic fowl, or domestic pets. In
15	the event of storage, sale, or transfer, such the certificates shall accompany the
16	pelts described therein.
17	(c) A nuisance wildlife control operator taking nuisance wildlife under this
18	section shall comply with all of the requirements of section 4828a of this title.

1	Sec. 13. 10 V.S.A. § 4828a is added to read:
2	<u>§ 4828a. NUISANCE WILDLIFE CONTROL OPERATORS; PERMIT</u>
3	(a) Permit required. No person shall engage in the business of nuisance
4	wildlife control without a permit from the Commissioner. A nuisance wildlife
5	control permit shall be valid for a term of two years and may be renewed
6	according to a schedule established by the Commissioner by rule. The act of
7	controlling or taking wildlife when directed by the Commissioner shall not
8	constitute engaging in the business of controlling nuisance wildlife.
9	(b) Conditions for issuance. The Commissioner shall not issue a nuisance
10	wildlife control permit under this section unless, prior to issuance, an applicant
11	presents to the Commissioner:
12	(1) proof of possession of a valid, current hunting license and a current
13	trapping license issued by the State; and
14	(2) a certificate of satisfactory completion of a Vermont nuisance
15	wildlife control training course.
16	(c) Training course. The Commissioner shall establish a nuisance wildlife
17	control course. The course shall provide instruction on:
18	(1) evaluation of a site where nuisance wildlife may be present;
19	(2) methods of nonlethal control or management of nuisance wildlife;
20	(3) conditions and methods of approved lethal control of nuisance
21	wildlife; and

1	(4) measures to prevent recurrence of nuisance wildlife.
2	(d) Rule. The Commissioner shall adopt rules regarding the permitting of
3	nuisance wildlife control operators. The rules shall include requirements for
4	eligibility, qualification, and training.
5	(e) Procedure. The Commissioner shall establish by procedure
6	requirements for the capture, handling, transport, and euthanasia of nuisance
7	wildlife by nuisance wildlife control operators. The procedure shall include
8	the relevant recommendations of the 2013 report of the American Veterinary
9	Medical Association Panel on Euthanasia.
10	Sec. 14. 10 V.S.A. § 4001 is amended to read:
11	§ 4001. DEFINITIONS
12	Words and phrases used in this part, unless otherwise provided, shall be
13	construed to mean as follows:
14	* * *
15	(9) Game: game birds or game quadrupeds, or both.
16	(10) Game birds: quail, partridge, woodcock, pheasant, plover of any
17	kind, Wilson snipe, other shore birds, rail, coot, gallinule, wild ducks, wild
18	geese, and wild turkey.
19	* * *
20	(13) Rabbit: to include wild hare.

1	(14) Fur-bearing animals: beaver, otter, marten, mink, raccoon, fisher,
2	fox, skunk, coyote, bobcat, weasel, opossum, lynx, wolf, and muskrat.
3	(15) Wild animals or wildlife: all animals, including birds, fish,
4	amphibians, and reptiles, other than domestic animals, domestic fowl, or
5	domestic pets.
6	* * *
7	(23) Take and taking: pursuing, shooting, hunting, killing, capturing,
8	trapping, snaring, and netting fish, birds, and quadrupeds and all lesser acts,
9	such as disturbing, harrying or, worrying, or wounding or placing, setting,
10	drawing, or using any net or other device commonly used to take fish or wild
11	animals, whether they result in the taking or not; and shall include every
12	attempt to take and every act of assistance to every other person in taking or
13	attempting to take fish or wild animals, provided that when taking is allowed
14	by law, reference is had to taking by lawful means and in \underline{a} lawful manner.
15	* * *
16	(27) Commissioner: Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife.
17	* * *
18	(31) Big game: deer, bear, moose, wild turkey, caribou, elk, and
19	anadromous Atlantic salmon taken in the Connecticut River Basin.
20	* * *

1	(40) Domestic animal: cattle, sheep, goats, equines, deer, American
2	bison, swine, poultry, camelids, and water buffalo.
3	(41) Domestic fowl: laying hens, broilers, ducks, turkeys, pheasant,
4	Chukar partridge, Coturnix quail, ratites, and any other birds kept for their eggs
5	or their flesh or for pleasure.
6	(42) Domestic pet: domesticated dogs, domesticated cats, domesticated
7	ferrets, psittacine birds, or any domesticated animal that is kept for pleasure
8	rather than utility.
9	(43) Nuisance wildlife: wildlife that causes or may cause damage or
10	threat to agriculture, human health or safety, property, or natural resources,
11	except that nuisance wildlife shall not mean rats or mice.
12	(44) Nuisance wildlife control: to harass, repel, evict, exclude, possess,
13	transport, liberate, reunite, rehome, take, or euthanize nuisance wildlife.
14	(45) Nuisance wildlife control operator: a person who is permitted to
15	perform nuisance wildlife control services for compensation that involves
16	charging a fee for the service of nuisance wildlife control.
17	* * * Antlerless Deer; Posting with Permission * * *
18	Sec. 15. 10 V.S.A. § 4081(g) is amended to read:
19	(g) If the Board finds that an antlerless season is necessary to maintain the
20	health and size of the herd, the Department shall administer an antlerless deer
21	program. Annually, the Board shall determine how many antlerless permits to

1	issue in each wildlife management unit. For a nonrefundable fee of \$10.00 for
2	residents and \$25.00 for nonresidents, a person may apply for a permit. Each
3	person may submit only one application for a permit. The Department shall
4	allocate the permits in the following manner:
5	(1) A Vermont landowner, as defined in section 4253 of this title, who
6	owns 25 or more contiguous acres and who applies shall receive a permit for
7	antlerless hunting in the management unit on which the land is located before
8	any are given to people eligible under subdivision (2) of this subsection. If the
9	land is owned by more than one individual, corporation, or other entity, only
10	one permit shall be issued. Landowners applying for antlerless permits under
11	this subdivision shall not, at the time of application or thereafter during the
12	regular hunting season, post their lands except with permission-only signs
13	under section 5201 of this title or as a safety zone under the provisions of
14	section 4710 of this title. As used in this section, "post" means any signage.
15	other than permission-only signs authorized under section 5201 of this title,
16	that would lead a reasonable person to believe that hunting is restricted on the
17	land. If the number of landowners who apply exceeds the number of permits
18	for that district, the Department shall award all permits in that district to
19	landowners by lottery.
20	(2) Permits remaining after allocation pursuant to subdivision (1) of this
21	subsection shall be issued by lottery.

VT LEG #329637 v.1

1	(3) Any permits remaining after permits have been allocated pursuant to
2	subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection shall be issued by the Department
3	for a \$10.00 fee for residents. Ten percent of the remaining permits may be
4	issued to nonresident applicants for a \$25.00 fee.
5	* * * Coyote Hunting * * *
6	Sec. 16. 10 V.S.A. § 4716 is added to read:
7	<u>§ 4716. COYOTE-HUNTING COMPETITIONS; PROHIBITION</u>
8	(a) As used in this section, "coyote-hunting competition" means a contest
9	in which people compete in the capturing or taking of coyotes for a prize or
10	recognition based on the size, accrued weight, quality, or number of animals
11	taken.
12	(b) A person shall not hold a coyote-hunting competition in the State.
13	(c) A person shall not participate in a coyote-hunting competition in the
14	State.
15	Sec. 17. 10 V.S.A. § 4502(b) is amended to read:
16	(b) A person violating provisions of this part shall receive points for
17	convictions in accordance with the following schedule (all sections are in this
18	title of the Vermont Statutes Annotated):
19	<mark>* * *</mark>
20	(3) Twenty points shall be assessed for:
21	<mark>* * *</mark>

1	(CC) § 4716. Holding or participating in a coyote-hunting
2	competition.
3	Sec. 18. 10 V.S.A. § 4518 is amended to read:
4	§ 4518. BIG GAME VIOLATIONS; THREATENED AND ENDANGERED
5	SPECIES; COYOTE-HUNTING COMPETITION VIOLATIONS;
6	SUSPENSION; VIOLATIONS
7	Whoever violates a provision of this part or orders or rules of the Board
8	relating to taking, possessing, transporting, buying, or selling of big game;
9	relating to holding or participating in a coyote-hunting competition; or relating
10	to threatened or endangered species shall be fined not more than \$1,000.00 nor
11	less than \$400.00 or imprisoned for not more than 60 days, or both. Upon a
12	second and all subsequent convictions or any conviction while under license
13	suspension related to the requirements of part 4 of this title, the violator shall
14	be fined not more than \$4,000.00 nor less than \$2,000.00 or imprisoned for not
15	more than 60 days, or both.
16	* * * Fish and Wildlife Violations; Criminal or Civil * * *
17	Sec. 19. DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE; REVIEW OF
18	CRIMINAL OR CIVIL NATURE OF VIOLATIONS
19	The Department of Fish and Wildlife shall conduct a review of the potential
20	criminal and civil charges for all fish and wildlife violations. On or before
21	January 15, 2019, the Department shall submit to the House Committees on

1	Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife and on Judiciary and the Senate
2	Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and on Judiciary a report
3	recommending changes to the criminal and civil charges for fish and wildlife
4	violations. The report shall summarize the process the Department used to
5	review the charges for fish and wildlife violations and shall explain the basis
6	for the Department's recommendations. Prior to preparing the report required
7	by this section, the Department shall consult with interested stakeholders, the
8	Judiciary, State's Attorneys, criminal defense lawyers, and fish and game
9	groups.
10	* * * Effective Dates * * *
11	Sec. 20. EFFECTIVE DATES
12	(a) This section and Secs. 11 (incidental trapping), 13 (nuisance control)
13	operators; permit), and 16-18 (coyote-hunting competitions) shall take effect
14	on passage.
15	(b) Secs. 1-10 (Department of Fish and Wildlife authority; enforcement),
16	15 (antlerless deer; posting with permission), and 19 (report on fish and
17	wildlife charges) shall take effect on July 1, 2018.
18	(c) Secs. 12 and 14 (nuisance wildlife trapping) shall take effect on
19	January 1, 2019.
20	
21	

1	(Committee vote:)	
2		
3		Representative
4		FOR THE COMMITTEE

Page 25 of 25