

H.60 Amendment – Improvements to the Report on Coyote Hunting in Vermont

Vermont Coyote Coexistence Coalition

Sec. 1. FISH AND WILDLIFE BOARD REPORT ON THE REGULATION 14 OF COYOTE HUNTING

(a) On or before January 15, 2018, ~~the Fish and Wildlife Board, after consultation with~~ the Department of Fish and Wildlife, in consultation with interested parties, including independent wildlife experts and members of the public, shall submit a report to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy regarding regulation of the hunting of coyotes in Vermont. The report shall include

- (1) An estimated population of coyotes in the State of Vermont, including an analysis of the method used to calculate the population estimate, and an evaluation of the impact of coyotes on deer populations and other predator populations.
- (2) Kill data for the last ten years by methods of take, including the number of targeted and non-targeted animals killed.
- (3) A summary of how Vermont regulates the hunting of coyotes, including the scientific basis for current regulations.
- (4) An evaluation of the open season on coyote demographics, pack stability, and reproductive patterns, including an evaluation of the ecological benefits of predator species.
- (5) An explanation of whether the current open season reflects the principles of the North American Wildlife Conservation Model or encourages behavior that leads to the wanton waste of coyotes.
- (6) A summary of how other states regulate the hunting of coyotes, including whether other states implement closed seasons, limit hunting of coyotes at night, prohibit hunting contests, restrict the use of dogs, require weighing and tagging or the utilization of bodies, ban the use of calling devices, or establish bag limits for the number of coyotes taken in a day or a season.
- (7) A recommendation of whether Vermont should adopt by rule additional regulations for the hunting of coyotes, including whether Vermont should establish a closed season for the hunting of coyotes. The ~~Board~~ Department shall provide data or a basis supporting the recommendation.

~~(b) The Fish and Wildlife Board shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Fish and Wildlife for the purpose of preparing the report required by this section.~~