

H.292

An act relating to miscellaneous natural resources and energy subjects

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 494 is amended to read:

§ 494. EXEMPT SIGNS

The following signs are exempt from the requirements of this chapter except as indicated in section 495 of this title:

\* \* \*

(18)(A) A sign that is a banner erected over a highway right-of-way for not more than 21 days if the bottom of the banner is not less than 16 feet 6 inches above the surface of the highway and is securely fastened with breakaway fasteners.

(B) As used in this subdivision (18), "banner" means a sign that is constructed of soft cloth or fabric or flexible material such as vinyl or plastic cardboard.

Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 495 is amended to read:

§ 495. OTHER REGULATIONS APPLYING TO PERMITTED SIGNS

\* \* \*

(d) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this title, a person, firm, or corporation shall not erect or maintain any outdoor advertising structure, device, or display within the limits of the highway right-of-way; however,

this limitation shall not apply to the signs and devices referred to in subdivisions 494(1), (2), (3), (6), (7), (10), (14), and (17) of this title.

\* \* \*

(f) Except on limited access facilities, the limitation established by subsection (d) of this section shall not apply to the signs referred to in subdivision 494(18) of this title.

Sec. 3. 1 V.S.A. § 377 is amended to read:

§ 377. GREEN UP DAY; RIVER ~~GREEN UP~~ CLEANUP MONTH

(a) The first Saturday in the month of May is designated as Green Up Day.

(b) September of each year is designated as River ~~Green Up~~ Cleanup Month.

Sec. 4. 10 V.S.A. § 1446 is amended to read:

§ 1446. REGISTERED PROJECTS; EXEMPTIONS FROM PERMITTING

\* \* \*

(b) Exemptions. The following activities in a protected shoreland area do not require a permit under section 1444 or 1445 of this title:

\* \* \*

(18) Removal of constructed feature. Temporary cutting or removal of vegetation to remove an existing constructed feature, provided that the area of removal is revegetated according to the requirements for the management of vegetative cover under section 1447 of this title and all cutting and removal of

vegetation complies with the Agency's low-risk site handbook for erosion prevention and sediment control.

\* \* \*

Sec. 5. 10 V.S.A. § 4254 is amended to read:

§ 4254. FISHING AND HUNTING LICENSES; ELIGIBILITY, DESIGN,  
DISTRIBUTION, SALE, AND ISSUE

\* \* \*

(i)(1) If the Board establishes a moose hunting season, ~~up to five moose permits shall be set aside to be auctioned~~ not more than 10 percent of the total number of annual moose permits authorized by the Board shall be set aside to be auctioned. The total number of annual moose permits set aside to be auctioned shall not exceed six. The moose permits, if any, set aside for auction shall be ~~in addition to the~~ included in the total number of annual moose permits authorized by the Board. The Board shall adopt rules necessary for the Department to establish, implement, and run the auction process. The Commissioner annually may establish a minimum dollar amount of not less than \$1,500.00 for any winning bid for a moose permit auctioned under this subdivision. Proceeds from the auction shall be deposited in the Fish and Wildlife Fund and used for conservation education programs run by the Department. Successful bidders must have a Vermont hunting or combination license in order to purchase a moose permit.

(2) If the Board establishes a moose hunting season, ~~there shall be established a program to~~ the Commissioner shall set aside five moose permits not more than 10 percent of the total number of annual moose permits authorized by the Board for Vermont residents who have served on active duty in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces provided that he or she has not received a dishonorable discharge. The total number of annual moose permits set aside for Vermont veterans shall not exceed six. Veterans awarded a moose permit under this subsection shall possess a valid Vermont hunting license or combination license in order to purchase a moose permit. The Department of Fish and Wildlife shall coordinate with the Office of Veterans Affairs to provide notice to eligible veterans of the moose permits set aside under this subsection.

(3) The Department of Fish and Wildlife shall adopt a procedure to implement the set-aside program for auction and for veterans, including a method to award applicants ~~preference~~ bonus points and a method by which auction participants and veterans who applied for but failed to receive a permit in one hunting season are awarded priority in the subsequent moose hunting season. The procedure adopted under this subdivision ~~shall be consistent with the preference system for the permit auction authorized under subdivision (1) of this subsection. Veterans awarded a moose permit under this subsection must possess a valid Vermont hunting or combination license in order to~~

~~purchase a moose permit. The Department of Fish and Wildlife shall coordinate with the Office of Veterans Affairs to provide notice to eligible veterans of the moose permits set aside under this subsection may include a provision for freezing bonus points in the event that the Board does not approve a moose hunting season or approves a small number of permits for the moose hunting season.~~

Sec. 6. 10 App. V.S.A. § 33 is amended to read:

§ 33. MOOSE MANAGEMENT RULE

\* \* \*

~~3.6 "Bonus point" means: 1) a point accrued for successfully applying for a permit, but not being drawn, or 2) a point accrued by indicating on the application that the person should not be entered into that year's drawing, but wishes to accrue a point. [Repealed.]~~

\* \* \*

7.0 Lottery Points

~~7.1 A person may accumulate one additional chance, or "bonus point" to win the lottery for each consecutive year that person legally submits and provides the fee for an application but is not selected to receive a permit.~~

~~7.2 Two separate lotteries may be held, one for the archery season and one for the regular season. Applicants may accumulate up to one bonus point~~

~~per year in each of the two separate lotteries, provided a complete application is submitted.~~

~~7.3 Applicants may elect to accrue a bonus point without entering the moose hunt lottery by submitting a completed application and fee and indicating at the appropriate place on the application form that they do not wish to be entered in the lottery for the current calendar year.~~

~~7.4 To accrue bonus points, a person must provide a complete application for the given year's lottery for which the person wishes to receive a permit (archery or regular). All bonus points in both lotteries are lost upon receipt of a valid permit or failure to provide a complete application for each designated lottery—a person may continue to accrue bonus points in one lottery, even if he or she fails to provide a valid application for the other.~~

[Repealed.]

\* \* \*

Sec. 7. 10 V.S.A. § 4255 is amended to read:

§ 4255. LICENSE FEES

\* \* \*

(j) If the Board determines that a moose season will be held in accordance with the rules adopted under sections 4082 and 4084 of this title, the Commissioner annually may issue three no-cost moose licenses to a person who has a life-threatening disease or illness and who is sponsored by a

qualified charitable organization, provided that at least one of the no-cost annual moose licenses awarded each year shall be awarded to a child or young adult 21 years of age or under who has a life-threatening illness. The child or adult shall comply with all other requirements of this chapter and the rules of the Board. Under this subsection, a person may receive only one no-cost moose license in his or her lifetime. ~~The Commissioner shall adopt rules in accordance with 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to implement this subsection. The rules shall define the child or adult qualified to receive the no-cost license, shall define a qualified sponsoring charitable organization, and shall provide the application process and criteria for issuing the no-cost moose license.~~

\* \* \*

Sec. 8. REPEAL; SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY YOUTH MOOSE LICENSE  
RULE

The Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Rule entitled Special Opportunity Youth Moose License Rule, 12-010-072 Vt. Code R. § 1, effective September 13, 2005, and amended May 18, 2010, is hereby repealed.

Sec. 9. AMENDMENTS TO AIR POLLUTION CONTROL  
RULES REGARDING WOOD HEATERS; COMMENCEMENT;  
ADOPTION; INSTITUTIONAL, COMMERCIAL, AND  
INDUSTRIAL WOOD HEATING APPLIANCES

(a)(1) The Secretary of Natural Resources, in consultation with interested parties and parties having expertise in wood heating and wood heating appliances, shall adopt amendments to the provisions of the Vermont Air Pollution Control Regulations governing the manufacture, sale, purchase, installation, and operation of wood heating appliances for use in institutional, commercial, or industrial applications in Vermont. These rules shall allow for alternative methods of demonstrating compliance with applicable air quality and efficiency standards as determined by the Air Pollution Control Officer.

(2) On or before July 1, 2019, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall submit to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy and the House Committees on Energy and Technology and on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife a copy of the draft rule amendments to Vermont Air Pollution Control Regulations required in subsection (a) of this section.

(3) The Secretary of Natural Resources shall commence the rulemaking required under this subsection on or before October 1, 2019 and shall adopt the rules on or before May 1, 2020.

(b)(1) Until such time that a rule amendment as required in subsection (a) of this section is adopted, and notwithstanding VT ADC 12-031-001:5-204, manufacturers of wood heating appliances that are equipped with oxygen trim systems for use in institutional, commercial, or industrial applications shall be subject to a certification process conducted by the Agency of Natural



Resources wherein each discrete model to be installed in Vermont shall be certified by the Air Pollution Control Officer before installation occurs, unless such appliance has been certified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as meeting the requirements of 40 C.F.R. Part 60, Subparts AAA and QQQQ as published in the Federal Register on March 16, 2015. Units that do not meet the requirements for certification will remain subject to VT ADC 12-031-001:5-204.

(2) Certification process.

(A) The Secretary shall develop a certification process in accordance with this section by July 10, 2019. As part of the certification process, the Secretary shall:

(i) accept test data pursuant to the European Standard EN 303-5 adjusted for higher heat value and condensable particulate matter fraction or other similar methods approved by the Air Pollution Control Officer; and

(ii) require emissions standards no more stringent than those levels established under 40 C.F.R. §§ 60.5474(b)(2) and 60.532(b) as published in the Federal Register on March 16, 2015.

(B) A fee of \$1,000.00 shall be due the Agency for each certification application that is submitted in accordance with the certification process.

(C) Certification of a particular unit model issued by the Air Pollution Control Officer is not subject to the procedures and requirements of 10 V.S.A. chapter 170.

(c) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, prior to September 1, 2019, new wood heating appliances that are equipped with oxygen trim systems for use in institutional, commercial, or industrial applications may be installed in Vermont.

(d)(1) Notice to buyers. No persons shall sell or distribute any new wood heating appliance for installation in an institutional, commercial, or industrial application as allowed in subsections (b) or (c) of this section unless, prior to any retail sales or lease agreement, the seller or dealer provides the prospective buyer or lessee with written notice stating that:

(A) only allowed fuels, as specified in VT ADC 12-031-001:5-204(c)(3)(ii), may be burned in a new wood heating appliance; and

(B) all new wood heating appliances must be operated in conformance with the manufacturer's operating and maintenance instructions.

(2) The written notice shall be signed and dated by the prospective buyer or lessee to verify timely receipt of the notice prior to the sale or lease and shall contain the name, address, and telephone number of both the seller or dealer and the prospective buyer or lessee, the location where the new wood heating appliance will be installed, the wood fuel type to be used, and the make

and model of the new wood heating appliance. Prior to delivery of a new wood heating appliance to any buyer or lessee, the seller or dealer shall mail or otherwise provide a copy of the signed notice to the Secretary.

(e)(1) Requirements for installers, owners, and operators. No person shall install any new wood heating appliance allowed pursuant to subsections (b) or (c) of this section that is also an outdoor hydronic heater that does not meet the setback requirements of VT ADC 12-031-001:5-204(c)(2)(iv).

(2) No person shall cause, allow, or permit the operation of a new wood heating appliance allowed pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of this section that is not in accordance with the requirements of VT ADC 12-031-001:5-204(c)(3)(ii)-(iii).

Sec. 10. 10 V.S.A. § 4252 is amended to read:

§ 4252. ACTIVITIES PERMITTED UNDER LICENSES.

(a) Subject to provisions of this part and rules of the Board:

(1) A fishing license shall entitle the holder to take fish.

(2) A hunting license shall entitle the holder to take wild animals, other than fish, except by trapping and for those species that require a separate big game license, and to shoot and spear pickerel.

(3) A trapping license shall entitle the holder to take animals other than fish with the use of traps.

(4) A combination fishing and hunting license shall entitle the holder to take fish and wild animals, except by trapping and for those species that require a separate big game license, and to shoot and spear pickerel.

(5) An archery license shall entitle the holder to take ~~one~~ wild deer by bow and arrow or crossbow.

(6) A muzzle loader license shall entitle the holder to take deer with a muzzle loading firearm.

(7) A turkey license shall entitle the holder to take wild turkey.

(8) A small game license shall entitle the holder to take small game by any lawful means other than a trap.

~~(9) A second muzzle loader license, which may only be purchased by a holder of a muzzle loader license, shall entitle the holder to take one wild deer, in addition to the number allowed to a holder of a muzzle loader license, with a muzzle loading firearm. [Repealed.]~~

~~(10) A second archery license, which may only be purchased by a holder of an archery license, shall entitle the holder to take one deer, in addition to the number allowed to a holder of an archery license, with a bow and arrow.~~

[Repealed.]

\* \* \*

Sec. 11. 10 V.S.A. § 4701 is amended to read:

§ 4701. USE OF GUN, BOW AND ARROW, AND CROSSBOW; LEGAL  
DAY; DOGS

(a) Unless otherwise provided by statute, a person shall not take game  
except with:

(1) a gun fired at arm's length;

(2) a bow and arrow; or

(3) a crossbow as ~~authorized under section 4711 of this title or as~~  
authorized by the rules of the Board.

(b) A person shall not take game between one-half hour after sunset and  
one-half hour before sunrise unless otherwise provided by statute or by the  
rules of the Board.

(c) A person may take game and fur-bearing animals during the open season  
therefor, with the aid of a dog, unless otherwise prohibited by statute or by the  
rules of the Board.

Sec. 12. 10 V.S.A. § 4711 is amended to read:

§ 4711. ~~CROSSBOW HUNTING; PERMIT.~~

~~A person who is impaired to the degree that he or she cannot operate a  
standard bow may obtain a permit to take game with a crossbow. The permit  
fees shall be \$25.00 for a permanent permit and \$5.00 for a temporary permit.  
A person who has lost a crossbow permit may request a new permit from the~~

~~agent of original issue. The fee shall be \$5.00. All fees shall be deposited in the Fish and Wildlife Fund. A person applying for this permit must personally appear before the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife, or his or her designee, with certification from a licensed physician that he or she is so disabled. The Commissioner may obtain a second medical opinion to verify the disability. Upon satisfactory proof of the disability, the Commissioner may issue a permit under this section. The permit shall set forth whether it was issued because of an inability to use a standard bow, and be attached to the license. The holder of the permit shall carry it at all times while hunting, and produce it on demand for inspection by any game warden or other law enforcement officer authorized to make arrests. Unless it is uncocked, a person shall not possess or transport a crossbow in or on a motor vehicle, motorboat, airplane, snowmobile, or other motor propelled craft or any vehicle drawn by a motor propelled vehicle except as permitted under subsection 4705(e) of this title. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 13. 10 V.S.A. § 4742a is amended to read:

§ 4742a. YOUTH DEER HUNTING WEEKEND.

(a) ~~The Saturday and Sunday Board shall designate by rule a youth deer hunting weekend~~ prior to opening day of the regular deer season ~~established by Board rule shall be youth deer hunting weekend.~~

(b) A person who is 15 years of age or under on the weekend of the hunt, and who has successfully completed a hunter safety course, may take one wild

deer during youth deer hunting weekend in accordance with the rules of the Board. In order to hunt under this section, a young person shall also hold a valid hunting license under section 4255 of this title, hold a youth deer hunting tag, and be accompanied by an unarmed adult who holds a valid Vermont hunting license and who is over 18 years of age. An adult accompanying a youth under this section shall accompany no more than two young people at one time.

(c) Each year, the Board shall determine whether antlerless deer may be taken under this section in any deer management unit or units. A determination under this subsection shall be made by rule, shall be based on the game management study conducted pursuant to section 4081 of this title, and, notwithstanding subsection (g) of that section, may allow taking of antlerless deer.

(d) No person shall hunt under this section on privately owned land without first obtaining the permission of the owner or occupant.

\* \* \*

#### Sec. 14. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section, Secs. 4 (lake shoreland; removal of constructed features), and 9 (air pollution rules; wood heating) shall take effect on passage.

(b) Secs. 5, 6, 7, and 8 shall take effect on January 1, 2020.

(c) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2019.