

1 S.177

2 Introduced by Senator Rodgers

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Fish and wildlife; nonmotorized vessels; licensing; access areas

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the
7 issuance of a license by the Department of Fish and Wildlife for the use of
8 nonmotorized vessels in State access areas.

9 An act relating to nonmotorized vessel licensing

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

11 Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A § 4001(41) and (42) are added to read:

12 § 4001. DEFINITIONS

13 Words and phrases used in this part, unless otherwise provided, shall be
14 construed to mean as follows:

15 * * *

16 (41) Nonmotorized vessel: every description of nonmotorized
17 watercraft, including sailboats, rowboats, paddleboats, rafts, canoes, kayaks, or
18 inflatable rafts and kayaks, used or capable of being used as a means of
19 transportation on unfrozen water. Nonmotorized vessel does not mean a single
20 air mattress, single inner tube, or other water toy used for flotation.

1 (42) Public waters: has the same meaning as in section 1422 of this
2 title.

3 Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 4252 is amended to read:

4 § 4252. ACTIVITIES PERMITTED UNDER LICENSES

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

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

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

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

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

15 (5) An archery license shall entitle the holder to take one deer by bow
16 and arrow.

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

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

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

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

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

8 (11) A moose license shall entitle the holder who has been issued a
9 moose permit under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Board under
10 subsection 4081(b) and sections 4082 and 4084 of this title to take moose.

11 (12) A super sport license shall entitle the holder to take fish, shoot
12 pickerel, take wild animals pursuant to chapter 113 of this title, take wild
13 animals as allowed under a combination hunting and fishing license and the
14 following big game licenses: archery, muzzle loader, and turkey. The
15 Commissioner may establish procedures to encourage purchasers of a super
16 sport license to make a stewardship donation of \$10.00 to the Fish and Wildlife
17 Fund for the purpose of habitat improvement.

18 (13) A mentored hunting license shall entitle the holder to the same
19 privileges as permitted by the fully licensed accompanying hunter's hunting
20 license under subdivision (2) of this section.

1 (14) A free youth turkey hunting weekend license for persons ~~aged~~
2 15 years of age or ~~under~~ younger on youth turkey hunting weekend shall entitle
3 the holder to take wild turkey.

4 (15) A free youth deer weekend license for persons ~~aged~~ 15 years of age
5 or ~~under~~ younger on youth deer hunting weekend shall entitle the holder to
6 take deer.

7 (16) A youth hunting license for persons ~~aged~~ 17 years of age ~~and under~~
8 or younger on the date of the license purchase shall entitle the holder to take
9 wild animals, other than fish, except by trapping and for those animals that
10 require a separate big game license, and to shoot and spear pickerel.

11 (17) A youth fishing license, eligible for persons ~~aged~~ 15 to 17 years of
12 age on the date of the license purchase, shall entitle the holder to take fish.

13 (18) A youth combination fishing and hunting license, eligible for
14 persons ~~aged~~ 15 to 17 years of age on the date of the license purchase, shall
15 entitle the holder to take fish and wild animals, except by trapping and for
16 those animals that require a separate big game license, and to shoot and spear
17 pickerel.

18 (19) A license issued under subdivisions (a)(1)–(18) shall entitle the
19 holder to use State access areas and landing areas to launch and remove
20 nonmotorized vessels in public waters of the State.

21 (b) In addition to the activities authorized under subsection (a) of this
22 section and the rules authorized thereunder, the holder of an archery license or

1 a super sport license may possess a handgun while archery hunting, provided
2 that the license holder shall not take game by firearm while archery hunting.

3 As used in this section, “handgun” means a pistol or revolver ~~which~~ that will
4 expel a projectile by the action of an explosive.

5 Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 4281 is added to read:

6 § 4281. WATERWAYS LICENSE

7 (a) A waterways license may be issued to any person 12 years of age or
8 older. A waterways license shall not be required for the operation of a
9 nonmotorized vessel by any person 11 years of age or younger.

10 (b) The waterways license shall be valid for one year and shall expire on
11 December 31 of each year. The license shall be issued in the form of a decal.
12 The decal shall be clearly displayed on the nonmotorized vessel for which it is
13 issued.

14 (c) A waterways license issued under this section shall be issued for a
15 specific nonmotorized vessel and shall not be transferrable to any other
16 nonmotorized vessel.

17 (d) A waterways license issued under this section shall not be construed to
18 alter the Fish and Wildlife Regulations for the priority uses listed under
19 10 App. V.S.A. § 115(4.0).

1 Sec. 4. 10 V.S.A. § 4145 is amended to read:

2 § 4145. ACCESS, LANDING AREA RULES

3 (a) The Board may adopt rules, under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, to regulate the
4 use by the public of access areas, landing areas, parking areas, or of other lands
5 or waters acquired or maintained pursuant to section 4144 of this title. Such
6 rules shall be posted in the areas affected and shall permit the launching of all
7 vessels that have a Vermont registration certificate required by 23 V.S.A.
8 chapter 29 and the parking of vehicles and boat trailers used by these vessels.
9 The rules shall not preclude the authorization to launch vessels not registered
10 in Vermont. These rules also shall permit the launching of all nonmotorized
11 vessels not used for commercial purposes and the parking of vehicles and boat
12 trailers used by these vessels, provided that the operator of the nonmotorized
13 vessel is in possession of a valid fishing, hunting, or trapping license, or a valid
14 waterways license decal is permanently affixed to the nonmotorized vessel.

15 * * *

16 Sec. 5. 10 V.S.A. § 4255 is amended to read:

17 § 4255. LICENSE FEES

18 (a) Vermont residents may apply for licenses on forms provided by the
19 Commissioner. Fees for each license shall be:

20 (1) Fishing license \$26.00

21 * * *

22 (13) Waterways license \$20.00

1 (b) Nonresidents may apply for licenses on forms provided by the
2 Commissioner. Fees for each license shall be:

3 (1) Fishing license \$52.00

4 * * *

5 (17) Waterways license \$40.00

6 * * *

7 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

8 This act shall take effect on January 1, 2020.