

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife to which was
3 referred House Bill No. 357 entitled “An act relating to prohibiting the wanton
4 waste of wildlife” 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 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

8 The General Assembly finds that:

9 (1) it is the law and policy of Vermont that:

10 (A) the fish and wildlife of Vermont are held in trust by the State for
11 the benefit of the citizens of Vermont;

12 (B) the State, through the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife, shall
13 safeguard the fish, wildlife, and fur-bearing animals of the State for the people
14 of the State; and

15 (C) the State shall fulfill this duty with a constant and continual
16 vigilance;

17 (2) the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation is a set of
18 principles that has formed the basis of the laws, rules, and other requirements
19 for all wildlife management in the United States, including hunting, fishing,
20 and trapping;

1 (3) one of the seven core components of the North American Model of
2 Wildlife Conservation is the principle that wildlife may only be killed for a
3 legitimate purpose, and that in order to prevent the wanton waste of wildlife in
4 North America, wildlife may only be killed for nonfrivolous reasons, such as
5 for food, fur, in self-defense, and to protect private property;

6 (4) Vermont has a proud history of and constitutional right to hunt and
7 fish, but Vermont law is not compliant with the North American Model of
8 Wildlife Conservation, as the State does not prohibit the wanton waste of
9 wildlife; and

10 (5) to fulfill the State’s duty to manage fish, wildlife, and fur-bearing
11 animals of the State for the people of Vermont and to bring Vermont law into
12 compliance with the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, the
13 State should enact a law prohibiting the wanton waste of wildlife.

14 Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 4717 is added to read:

15 § 4717. WANTON WASTE

16 A person while hunting, fishing, or trapping shall not intentionally kill a
17 wild animal and intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly fail to salvage or
18 retrieve for human use the edible meat or the fur of the wild animal, except
19 when the failure to salvage or retrieve the edible meat or fur is beyond the
20 control of the person due to:

21 (1) theft of the wild animal by another person;

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2 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE