

Public Comments on H.411
February 27 – March 9, 2019

From: Warner Shedd
Sent: Saturday, March 09, 2019 9:49 AM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: H.411

I oppose this bill. Language adopted last year, plus actions of the Fish and Wildlife Board, are more than sufficient.

Warner Shedd

Greetings!

I am writing in support of a number of recently introduced wildlife bills. I believe it is important to pass all of these bills since they update outmoded laws that do not respect the integrity of animals. Though these bills are not perfect, they move us in the right direction. Please let my representatives know that I urge a **YES** vote on all of these reasonable wildlife bills.

Yes on H.411 "Nuisance Wildlife and Trapping" -- It makes sense that an individual should obtain a nuisance wildlife control trapping license before operating in that capacity and that there is an animal-behavior standard established before a landowner or licensed trapper is permitted to take an animal.

Thank you for forwarding this email to the Fish and Wildlife Committee.

Yours sincerely ~ Heidi Dorr (Montpelier)
--
Heidi Dorr

From: Bill Pickens
Sent: Saturday, March 02, 2019 1:38 PM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Cc: Bruce Baroffio <bbaroffio@hotmail.com>; Bruce Martin <bmartinvta@gmail.com>; LARRY MARTIN <ltm31150@comcast.net>
Subject: H. 411

Members of the Natural Resources and Water Quality Committee

In regards to H. 411 it would appear to be a rerun of last years bill on Nuisance Wildlife Control Licensing.

As a tax payer I find it hard to understand how this committee can justify spending time on this proposal when just last session (about 8 months ago) you discussed the same issue and the Legislature passed a

resolution requiring the F & W Department and the Board to formulate rules to govern the actions of Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators.

At this time the Department and the Board have developed such rules and regulations and the Board has taken a second vote on those Rules and Regulations.

A Course: All Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators will be required to take a Trapper Education Course which will have a component relating to Nuisance Wildlife Control.

Just who would determine the threshold of animal- behavior before the problem becomes a nuisance?

The Department and the Board have the Legislatures directive let them run with it and make those Rules and Regulations (and changes as required).

If the Group that authored this Bill are not satisfied with the out come let them come to the Department and Board with rational changes, not trying to circumvent the Department and Board by taking up your valuable time.

Thank You

William Pickens

Fish & Wildlife Board Member from Lamoille resident of Wolcott, VT.

From: mary ann young

Sent: Saturday, March 02, 2019 9:21 AM

To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: input

Please share with the committee members that I am in favor of support for bills H 190 and H 411. Please let your empathy for living things, and not material gain, be your guide.

Thanking you for support,

mary ann young

South Burlington, Vermont

From: larkshield

To: lbozarth <lbozarth@leg.state.vt.us>

Sent: Fri, Mar 1, 2019 5:07 pm

Subject: Please forward to Fish and Wildlife Committee

Dear Fish and Wildlife Committee,

I am writing to you today to request that you **support H190, H357, H411, H90, and S29**. Each one of these bills would be a step forward for Vermont in the treatment of wildlife and moving into the 21st century. It is time that all Vermonters had a say in regard to the wildlife in the state. For too long only hunters and trappers have decided their fate. They are no longer the majority but have a lock on the

leadership of the Department. The Fish and Wildlife Board answers to no one and even goes against their own Department and biologist in many cases.

Wanton waste occurs way too often. That is not good conservation or ethical hunting. No species should be hunted 365/24/7 and in many cases left to rot. Crows have been deemed to be highly intelligent social birds and yet they are used for target practice for many. This too must stop.

Nuisance wildlife operators need to be regulated and should take a course before they get a license. The Department should require this.

We should limit the sale, purchase, and possession with intent to sell any protected animal products.

I hope you will consider all of these bills seriously and take action for the sake of Vermont and the wildlife. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lark Shields
Craftsbury, VT

From: Jim Calchera
Sent: Friday, March 01, 2019 1:15 PM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: Fwd: H.411

Dear Representative Sheldon and Fellow VT House Fish and Wildlife Committee Members,

I am writing to express my concerns with Bill H.411. I am opposed to this bill due to its contents as written. I am also opposed because nuisance trapping was addressed last year in a similar bill and the Fish and Wildlife Department created new rules to support last year's Bill/Law. I see no reason to continue on this subject and hope that you ensure that Bill H.411 does not "move".

The requirement that all Nuisance Trappers need a Trapping license (and thus the mandatory Trapper Education course) ensures that all will understand the laws, know what is ethical and what isn't and take appropriate actions when dealing with nuisance animals.

I would think that the legislators have more pressing issues to address versus re-hashing an issue that was addressed in a sound manner last year.

Thank you for recognizing my concerns.

(Please ensure this statement is added to the record.)

Sincerely,

Jim Calchera
Putney, VT 05346

From: david bargfrede
Sent: Friday, March 01, 2019 9:57 AM

To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: H. 411

To Rep. Sheldon and Committee Members;
Re-guarding House Bill H. 411

Please OPPOSE this bill. This bill is designed to make the removal of nuisance animals with the use of TRAPS more constricting than necessary.

I know as well as all of you do that H. 411 is just another step in a very long battle to STOP ALL TRAPPING. My hope is that all of you will choose NOT to travel down this road with these people. They really DO NOT understand the principals of wildlife management.

Thank you for considering my opinion. Dave Bargfrede—Andover Vt.

From: Maya Drummond
Sent: Friday, March 01, 2019 9:38 AM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: H.190; H.411; H. 99; S.29

Dear Folk,

I am writing in the hope that Vermont will take a leadership role in Wildlife protection and pass the above bills, which is only a start, but it is very important. There is so much ignorance and cruelty in the reasoning and the methods of hunting and trapping animals.

I am strongly in favor of promoting tourism based on the viewing and enjoying of healthy wildlife populations. Cultural changes have made old-style hunting and trapping abhorrent to most visitors to our state. Let's move forward by protecting wildlife from stupid exploitation and harm, and put in place intelligent protective laws which will create a beautiful healthy and abundant wildlife population for future generations.

Thank you for helping to bring Vermont standards of wildlife management current with modern cultural values.

Maya Drummond

South Londonderry, Vermont

Additionally, I am a believer in wildlife crossings over and under Vermont highways.

I will be working on gaining support for wildlife crossings in the coming year.

From: Jerry D'Amico
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2019 7:38 PM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Cc: Amy Sheldon <ASheldon@leg.state.vt.us>; Jay Hooper <JHooper@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: Re: H 411

I am writing to oppose House Bill H 411. Fish and Wildlife, Trapping, Nuisance Wildlife

Last year, the same language was included in a bill designed to make nuisance trapping more difficult. The reason it didn't pass last year was because more appropriate language was drawn up and passed in its place. The language we now see in H.411 was discarded last year because it was without merit and unnecessary. The language which was passed last year, combined with rule changes generated by the Fish

and Wildlife Board address the questions brought forth last year. It is a disservice to the taxpayer for the legislature to take up once again the same pointlessly onerous language, which was just discarded.

I am a lifelong hunter and trapper. On occasion I have been asked by neighbors, friends, and family to capture and remove nuisance wildlife, primarily groundhogs [wood chucks] and skunks. As I understand this bill, if passed, would require me to obtain a nuisance wildlife license and have any pelts kept from a dispatched animal tagged by a Fish and Wildlife official.

This bill appears to be a bill looking for a solution to a problem that does not exist. I already hold a valid Vermont fishing, hunting, and trapping license. Why would I have to obtain another to participate in the same activity, especially one in which I am doing a favor for a neighbor, who is concerned with wildlife attacking their chickens/ducks/pets and /or digging up their gardens and lawns or flooding their fields and yards.

Sincerely,

Jerry D'Amico
Roxbury, VT

From: kevin lawrence
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2019 12:55 PM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: H 411 House Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources

Dear Representative Sheldon and fellow F,W, and WR committee members:

I write as the outgoing chair of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board. I also did spend time running a nuisance business during the height of the rabies outbreak in the 1990's.

The Fish and Wildlife Board, just yesterday, passed the second vote of new regulations to manage nuisance wildlife trapping as mandated by the 2018 legislature. We held a statewide hearing where the Board's work was supported overwhelmingly by Vermonters in attendance. LCAR will see this regulatory change next month and the final vote for passage will probably occur in April of 2019. Landowners, trappers, and Nuisance Wildlife Control professionals all gave resounding support for these changes.

The tenants of H 411 seek to add more burden to people who are just trying to help landowners keep their property secure. Putting more limits and restrictions on gaining access to resolution of wildlife issues changes the image of wildlife, making our animal neighbors into "pests". When a process gets too complicated and expensive through government red tape and requirements, landowners are too tempted to work around the regulations rather than following the law.

The current regulation changes already require trapper education training and reporting. The tools available to the trapper are the same. Most people doing this work are trapping on the side as NWCO's and trapping during the legal seasons for fur. Landowners benefit from good relationships with trappers, allowing, for example, my farmers to call me if they have beavers eating large swaths of their corn or summer raccoons defecating in grain bins (spreading ring worm) , etc. The regulations thrown out of the Senate last year are reappearing here, and they are duplicitous, producing only burdens for the Department of Fish and Wildlife and NWCO's, all without adding to the quality of services offered to landowners.

If you need any testimony on this bill, please feel free to contact me.

Kevin Lawrence, Outgoing Chair of VT Fish and Wildlife, 802-280-5884

From: Richard Brousseau
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2019 9:29 AM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: Bill # H411

I oppose this bill on the grounds that it duplicates license requirements that are already in place.

Plus it prohibits drowning of animals, which is a common and humane way of killing animals that live in or near waterways.

Please pass these concerns on to the committee that will be taking this matter up for consideration.

Richard Brousseau
Hartland, VT

From: Allen Godin
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2019 1:08 AM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: House Committee on Fish, Wildlife, and Natural Resources Re: H.411

Representative Sheldon and Fellow Committee Members,

It has been brought to my attention that a bill has been drafted under the title H.411. This bill is full of language that was proposed in a bill last year and rejected. The bill that took its place was adopted and corrected the issues that H.411 was drafted to address. Therefore there is no reason to continue H.411 out of committee. I ask you to drop H.411 and save the people of Vermont the expense of the legislature taking up this bill and wasting time debating something already dealt with last year.

Respectfully,

Allen Godin

From: jbdflint
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 8:50 PM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: H.411

Dear Representative Sheldon and Fellow Committee Members,

I oppose H.411. Last year, all of the same language was included in a bill designed to make nuisance trapping more difficult. The reason it didn't pass last year was because more appropriate language was drawn up and passed in its place. The language we now see in H.411 was discarded last year because it was without merit and unnecessary. The language which was passed last year, combined with rule changes generated by the Fish and Wildlife Board address the questions brought forth last year. It is a disservice to the taxpayer for the legislature to take up once again the same pointlessly onerous language which was just discarded.

Dear committee assistant Laura Bozarth,

Please share my concerns with the committee and add them to the record.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jim B. Densmore

From: kaminski

Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 11:50 AM

To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: H.411

Rep Sheldon and Fellow Committee Members,

The language now in H.411 was discarded last year because it was without merit and unnecessary. It is a disservice to the taxpayers for this legislation to be taken up again with the same language which was discarded.

Please add my comments to the record.

Thank you

Richard Kaminski

791 Rt 100A

Plymouth, Vt 05056

From: Bruce Baroffio

Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 11:31 AM

To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: H411

I am opposed to Bill H411. It is the same as the points that were found to be without merit last year. It is a waste of time to re-hash this again

From: Larry
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 11:21 AM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: H. 411

Please share my concerns with the committee and add them to the record.

Representative Sheldon and fellow house Fish and Wildlife and Natural Resources Committee members.

I OPPOSE H. 411

Last year all of the same language was included in a bill to make nuisance trapping more difficult. The reason it did not pass last year was because more appropriate language was drawn up and passed it its place.

The language we now see in H.411 was discarded last year because it was without merit and unnecessary. The language which was passed last year, combined with rule changes generated by the Fish and Wildlife Board address the questions brought forth last year.

It is a disservice to the taxpayer for the legislature to take up once again the same pointless onerous language which was just discarded.

Larry martin
WORCESTER, VT

Sent from my iPad

From: kathryngilman15
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 11:10 AM
To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: H.411 Bill

To Laura Bozarth

Please know that I and my husband are both against H.411

Kathryn and Frederick Gilman
Bennington VT

Sent from my iPhone

From: Mark Moran
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 11:09 AM

To: Laura Bozarth <LBozarth@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: H. 411

I'm writing to let you know that I oppose bill H.411 This was addresses last year. Why are we wasting our time going over something that was addressed last year.

Mark Moran

Barre Town Vt