

1 H.316

2 Introduced by Representatives Yantachka of Charlotte, Ancel of Calais,  
3 Anthony of Barre City, Brumsted of Shelburne, Masland of  
4 Thetford, and Till of Jericho

5 Referred to Committee on

6 Date:

7 Subject: Fish and wildlife; hunting; hunting dogs

8 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to clarify that a  
9 hunter training dogs or using dogs to hunt black bear must retain visual and  
10 verbal control over the dogs while hunting.

11 An act relating to control over hunting dogs

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

13 Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 5007 is amended to read:

14 § 5007. HUNTING BLACK BEAR WITH DOGS

15 (a) No person shall pursue black bear with the aid of dogs, either for  
16 training or taking purposes, without a permit issued by the Commissioner. The  
17 number of permits issued to nonresidents in any given year shall not exceed  
18 10 percent of the number of permits issued to residents in the preceding year.  
19 The Commissioner shall establish a process for determining which

1 nonresidents are to receive a permit if there are more nonresident applicants  
2 than nonresident permits. A nonresident may train dogs to hunt bear only  
3 while training season is in effect in the nonresident's home state and subject to  
4 the laws and regulations of this State.

5 (b) Permits will be issued to residents for a fee of \$50.00.

6 (c) Application fees for nonresidents shall be \$10.00 with a permit fee of  
7 \$200.00 for successful applicants.

8 (d)(1) A person hunting black bear with dogs under a permit issued under  
9 this section shall be in control of the dogs at all times.

10 (2) As used in this subsection, "control" means that while a person is  
11 hunting black bear with dogs, the person maintains visual contact with the dogs  
12 and is able to verbally control the dogs.

13 Sec. 2 10 V.S.A. § 5001 is amended to read:

14 § 5001. HUNTING DOGS; FIELD TRAINING

15 (a) While accompanying the dog, a person may train a hunting dog to hunt  
16 and pursue:

17 (1) bear during the period from June 1 to September 15 and then only  
18 from sunrise to sunset;

19 (2) rabbits and game birds during the period from June 1 to the last  
20 Saturday in September and then only from sunrise to sunset;

1 (3) raccoon during the period from June 1 through any time of day or  
2 night on the day before the opening day of raccoon hunting season; and

3 (4) bobcat and fox during the period June 1 to March 15, except during  
4 regular deer season as prescribed in section 4741 of this title.

5 (b) The Commissioner may permit a person to train and condition a hunting  
6 dog between the second Monday in March and June 1. The Board may adopt  
7 rules as it considers necessary to control the training and conditioning of  
8 hunting dogs.

9 (c) A person training a hunting dog under this section may possess a  
10 handgun while training the hunting dog, provided that the person shall not take  
11 game by any method while training the hunting dog. As used in this section,  
12 “handgun” means a pistol or revolver that will expel a projectile by the action  
13 of an explosive.

14 (d) A person training a hunting dog under this section to pursue bear shall  
15 maintain visual contact with the hunting dog and be able to verbally control the  
16 hunting dog at all times.

17 Sec. 3. 10 App. V.S.A. § 7 is amended to read:

18 § 7. BEAR MANAGEMENT RULE

19 \* \* \*

20 3.6 “Control of Dog/Dogs” means ~~the transportation, loading or~~  
21 ~~unloading of dogs from vehicle(s); the handling, catching, restraining or~~

1 ~~releasing dogs; and the use of telemetry/GPS to locate or track dogs~~ that while  
2 a person is hunting black bear with dogs, the person maintains visual contact  
3 with the dogs and is able to verbally control the dogs.

4 \* \* \*

5 6.3 Dogs and Packs

6 (a) A person shall not take black bear with the aid of dogs unless the  
7 person is in control of the dog or dogs at all times.

8 \* \* \*

9 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

10 This act shall take effect on January 1, 2022.