

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife to which was
3 referred House Bill No. 411 entitled “An act relating to the retrieval and
4 disposal of wild animals” respectfully reports that it has considered the same
5 and 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. 10 V.S.A. chapter 113, subchapter 7 is added to read:

8 Subchapter 7. Retrieval and Use of Covered Wild Animals

9 § 4921. DEFINITION

10 As used in this subchapter:

11 (1) “Covered wild animal” means an animal that is a big game animal,
12 game quadruped, game bird, fur-bearing animal, or crow.

13 (2) “Process” or “processed” means the act of slaughtering or butchering
14 a covered wild animal for its edible meat or usable parts.

15 (3) “Unfit for consumption or use” means a part of the covered wild
16 animal or the covered wild animal itself is decayed, rotting, diseased, or
17 infected.

18 § 4922. RETRIEVAL OF COVERED WILD ANIMALS

19 A person shall not intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly kill a covered
20 wild animal and intentionally or knowingly fail to make a reasonable effort to

1 retrieve the covered wild animal and use the covered wild animal as provided
2 under this subchapter.

3 § 4923. USE OF COVERED WILD ANIMAL

4 (a) A person who retrieves a lawfully taken covered wild animal, or a
5 person to whom the lawfully taken covered wild animal is transferred, shall
6 retain the animal in the person's possession until it is processed as food;
7 processed for its fur, hide, or feathers; or used for taxidermy. The inedible or
8 unusable parts or portions of a covered wild animal produced from processing
9 of the covered wild animal shall be disposed of pursuant to the requirements of
10 this subchapter.

11 (b) The requirements of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply:

12 (1) when a covered wild animal is unfit for consumption or use; or

13 (2) to coyote taken by a lawful means other than trapping provided that
14 the coyote is retrieved and disposed of pursuant to the requirements of this
15 subchapter.

16 § 4924. EXCEPTIONS

17 The requirements of sections 4922 and 4923 of this title shall not apply:

18 (1) when the failure to retrieve, the failure to salvage, or the failure to
19 retain the covered wild animal is beyond the control of the person due to:

20 (A) theft of the covered wild animal by another person;

21 (B) unavoidable loss in the field to a wild animal;

1 (C) lack of legal access to property where a wounded or dead covered
2 wild animal is located, including when signage on the property would lead a
3 reasonable person to believe that hunting is prohibited on the land; or

4 (D) other circumstances that prevent salvage, retrieval, or retention;

5 (2) in order to defend a person or property, including defense of
6 property authorized under this part or rules adopted under this part;

7 (3) when the covered wild animal is sick or diseased;

8 (4) to a State, federal, or municipal law enforcement officer or employee
9 when the law enforcement officer or employee is acting within the course of
10 the officer's or employee's employment; or

11 (5) when following generally accepted hunting, trapping, or fishing
12 practices for retrieval of a covered wild animal when a practice is:

13 (A) set forth under this part or rules adopted under this part; or

14 (B) approved as a best practice by the Commissioner of Fish and
15 Wildlife as part of the annual publication of the Vermont Hunting and
16 Trapping Guide or the Vermont Guide to Fishing Laws.

17 § 4925. DISPOSAL

18 A person shall not place, leave, dump, or abandon the carcass or parts of a
19 covered wild animal:

20 (1) along or upon a public right-of-way or highway;

- 1 (2) upon a private property posted in accordance with section 4710 or
- 2 5201 of this title without permission of the owner or the owner’s agent; or
- 3 (3) where prohibited by State or municipal law.

4 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

5 This act shall take effect on passage.

6 and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act

7 relating to the retrieval and use of covered wild animals”

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12 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE