

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, “covered wild animal” means an animal that is a  
11 big game animal, game quadruped, game bird, fur-bearing animal, or crow.

12 § 4922. RETRIEVAL OF COVERED WILD ANIMALS

13 A person shall not intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly kill a covered  
14 wild animal and intentionally or knowingly fail to make a reasonable effort to  
15 retrieve the covered wild animal and use the covered wild animal as provided  
16 under this subchapter.

17 § 4923. USE OF COVERED WILD ANIMAL

18 A person who retrieves a lawfully taken covered wild animal, or a person to  
19 whom the lawfully taken covered wild animal is transferred, shall retain the  
20 animal in the person’s possession until it is processed as food; processed for its  
21 fur, hide, or feathers; or used for taxidermy, provided that this section shall not

1 apply to covered wild animals that are unfit for consumption or use. As used  
2 in this section, “unfit for consumption or use” means the covered wild animal  
3 or its parts that are decayed, rotting, diseased, or infected.

4 § 4924. EXCEPTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 (4) to a State, federal, or municipal law enforcement officer or employee  
18 when the law enforcement officer or employee is acting within the course of  
19 the officer’s or employee’s employment; or

1           (5) when following generally accepted hunting, trapping, or fishing  
2           practices for retrieval of a covered wild animal, including requirements or  
3           practices under this part or rules adopted under this part.

4           § 4925. DISPOSAL

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

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

8           (2) upon a private property posted in accordance with section 4710 or  
9           5201 of this title without permission of the owner or the owner’s agent; or

10           (3) where prohibited by State or municipal law.

11           Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

12           This act shall take effect on passage.

13           and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act  
14           relating to the retrieval and use of covered wild animals”

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(Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Representative \_\_\_\_\_

FOR THE COMMITTEE