

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, Disposal, and Use of 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 AND DISPOSAL OF COVERED WILD ANIMALS

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

17 § 4923. WASTE OF GAME OR FUR-BEARING ANIMAL

18 (a) A person shall not intentionally take a covered wild animal and  
19 intentionally or knowingly leave the wounded or dead covered wild animal.

20 (b) A person who retrieves a lawfully taken covered wild animal, or a  
21 person to whom the lawfully taken covered wild animal is transferred, shall

1 retain the animal in his or her possession until processed; used as food; used  
2 for its fur, hide, or feathers; used for taxidermy; or lawfully disposed.

3 § 4924. EXCEPTIONS

4 The requirements of this subchapter shall not apply:

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

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

9 (B) unanticipated weather conditions or other act of God that  
10 prevents salvage, retrieval, or retention;

11 (C) unavoidable loss in the field to a wild animal; or

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

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

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

18 (4) to a State, federal, or municipal law enforcement officer or employee  
19 when the law enforcement officer or employee is acting within the course of  
20 his or her 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 without permission of the owner or the  
9           owner’s agent, except when following generally accepted hunting, trapping,  
10          and fishing practices; or

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

12          Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

13          This act shall take effect on passage.

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

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Representative \_\_\_\_\_

FOR THE COMMITTEE