

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife to which was
3 referred Senate Bill No. 201 entitled “An act relating to best management
4 practices for trapping” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and
5 recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended by
6 striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the
7 following:

8 Sec. 1. DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE; BEST MANAGEMENT
9 PRACTICES FOR TRAPPING

10 (a) On or before January 15, 2023, the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife
11 shall submit to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, the
12 House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife, and the Fish and
13 Wildlife Board recommended best management practices (BMPs) for trapping
14 that propose criteria and equipment designed to modernize trapping and
15 improve the welfare of animals subject to trapping programs. The BMPs shall
16 be based on investigation and research conducted by scientists and experts at
17 the Department of Fish and Wildlife and shall use the “Best Management
18 Practices for Trapping in the United States” issued by the Association of Fish
19 and Wildlife Agencies as the minimum standards for BMP development. The
20 BMPs shall include recommended:

1 (1) trapping devices and components of trapping devices that are more
2 humane than currently authorized devices and are designed to minimize injury
3 to a captured animal;

4 (2) criteria for adjusting or maintaining trapping devices so that they
5 operate correctly and humanely;

6 (3) trapping techniques, including the appropriate size and type of a trap
7 for target animals, use of lures or other attractants, trap safety, and methods to
8 avoid nontarget animals;

9 (4) requirements for the location of traps, including the placing of traps
10 for purposes other than nuisance trapping at a safe distance, from public trails,
11 class 4 roads, playgrounds, parks, and other public locations where persons
12 may reasonably be expected to recreate;

13 (5) criteria for when and how live, captured animals should be released
14 or dispatched; and

15 (6) revisions to trapper education materials and instructions that
16 incorporate the recommendations or requirements set forth in subdivisions (1)–
17 (5) of this subsection.

18 (b) The report required under subsection (a) of this section shall include a
19 recommendation from the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife for funding the
20 replacement of currently authorized trapping devices with trapping devices that
21 are compliant with the recommended BMPs. The Commissioner’s

1 recommendation shall include alternatives financed with public funding,
2 private funding, or some combination of public and private funding.

3 (c) In developing the BMPs required under subsection (a) of this section,
4 the Commissioner shall provide an opportunity for public review and comment
5 and shall hold at least one public hearing regarding the proposed BMPs.

6 (d) As used in this section, “trapping” means to take or attempt to take
7 furbearing animals with traps, including the dispatching of lawfully trapped
8 furbearing animals.

9 Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 4861 is amended to read:

10 § 4861. FUR-BEARING ANIMALS_; TAKING_; POSSESSION

11 (a) Fur-bearing animals shall not be taken except in accordance with the
12 provisions of this part; and of rules of the Board. The fur or skins of fur-
13 bearing animals may be possessed at any time unless otherwise provided by
14 this part, rules of the Board, or orders of the Commissioner.

15 (b) On or before January 1, 2024, the Fish and Wildlife Board shall revise
16 the rules regulating the trapping of fur-bearing animals in the State. The
17 revised rules shall be at least as stringent as best management practices for
18 trapping recommended by the Department of Fish and Wildlife to the General
19 Assembly.

20 (c) On or before January 1, 2024 and annually thereafter, the
21 Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife shall submit in writing to the House

1 Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife and the Senate
2 Committee on Natural Resources and Energy information regarding the species
3 and number of nontarget animals killed or injured by trapping in the preceding
4 calendar year.

5 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

6 This act shall take effect on passage.

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13 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE