

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Natural Resources and Energy to which was referred  
3 Senate Bill No. 281 entitled “An act relating to hunting coyotes with dogs”  
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the  
5 bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in  
6 lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. §§ 5008 and 5009 are added to read:

8 § 5008. HUNTING COYOTE WITH AID OF DOGS; PERMIT

9 (a) No person shall pursue coyote with the aid of dogs, either for training or  
10 taking purposes, without a permit issued by the Commissioner.

11 (1) The Commissioner may deny any permit at the Commissioner’s  
12 discretion. The Commissioner shall not issue more than 100 permits annually.

13 (2) The number of permits that the Commissioner issues to nonresidents  
14 in any given year shall not exceed 10 percent of the number of permits issued  
15 to residents in the preceding year. The Commissioner shall establish a process  
16 and standards for determining which nonresidents are to receive a permit,  
17 including who will receive a permit if there are more nonresident applicants  
18 than nonresident permits.

19 (3) A nonresident may train dogs to pursue coyote only while the  
20 training season is in effect in the nonresident's home state and subject to the  
21 requirements of this part and rules adopted under this part.

1       (b)(1) The Commissioner shall issue permits under this section to a resident  
2       for a fee of \$50.00.

3       (2) The application fee for a nonresident permit issued under this section  
4       shall be \$10.00, and the fee for a nonresident permit issued under this section  
5       shall be \$200.00 for a successful applicant.

6       § 5009. PURSUING COYOTE WITH AID OF DOGS; LANDOWNER

7               PERMISSION

8       (a) A person shall not release a dog onto land posted in accordance with  
9       section 5201 of this title for the purpose of pursuing coyote with the aid of  
10       dogs unless the dog owner or handler of the hunting dog has obtained a  
11       courtesy permission card from the landowner or landowner's agent allowing  
12       the pursuit of coyote with the aid of dogs on the land.

13       (b) A person shall not release onto land a dog for the purpose of pursuing  
14       coyote with the aid of dogs if in the previous 365 days a dog had been  
15       previously found on the land, and the dog owner, a handler of the dog, or a  
16       person participating in the hunt has been personally informed by law  
17       enforcement that hunting dogs are not permitted on the property.

18       (c)(1) For a first offense, a person who violates this section shall have  
19       committed a minor fish and wildlife violation and shall be assessed a five-point  
20       violation under subdivision 4502(b)(1) of this title.

1           (2) For a second or subsequent violation of this section, a person shall  
2           be assessed a 10-point violation under subdivision 4502(b)(2) of this title and  
3           shall be fined under section 4515 of this title.

4           Sec. 2. MORATORIUM ON HUNTING COYOTE WITH AID OF DOGS

5           (a) A person shall not pursue coyote with the aid of dogs, either for the  
6           training of dogs or for the taking of coyote, except that a person may pursue  
7           coyote with the aid of dogs in defense of a person or property if the person  
8           pursuing coyote with the aid of dogs:

9                   (1) is the landowner; or

10                   (2) has obtained a courtesy permission card from the landowner or  
11           landowner's agent allowing the release of a dog onto the land for the purpose  
12           of pursuing coyote with the aid of dogs.

13           (b) This section shall be repealed on the effective date of the Fish and  
14           Wildlife Board rules required by Sec. 3 of this act.

15           Sec. 3. FISH AND WILDLIFE BOARD RULES; PURSUING COYOTE

16                   WITH THE AID OF DOGS

17           (a) The General Assembly through the rules required under this section  
18           intends to reduce conflicts between landowners and persons pursuing coyote  
19           with the aid of dogs by reducing the frequency that dogs or persons pursuing  
20           coyote enter onto land that is posted against hunting or land where pursuit of  
21           coyote with dogs is not authorized. In addition, the General Assembly intends

1 that the rules required under this section support the humane taking of coyote,  
2 the management of the population in concert with sound ecological principles,  
3 and the development of reasonable and effective means of control.

4 (b) The Fish and Wildlife Board shall adopt a rule regarding the pursuit of  
5 coyote with the aid of dogs, either for the training of dogs or for the taking of  
6 coyote. The rule shall include at least the following provisions:

7 (1) a limit on the number of dogs that may be used to pursue coyote;

8 (2) a prohibition on the substitution of any new dog for another dog  
9 during pursuit of a coyote;

10 (3) the legal method of taking coyote pursued with the aid of dogs, such  
11 as rifle, muzzle loader, crossbow, or bow and arrow;

12 (4) a definition of control to minimize the likelihood that dogs pursuing  
13 coyote enter onto land that is posted against hunting or onto land where pursuit  
14 of coyote with dogs is not authorized;

15 (5) provisions to encourage persons pursuing coyote with the aid of dogs  
16 to seek landowner permission before entering or releasing dogs onto land that  
17 is not posted in accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 5201; and

18 (6) required reporting of every coyote killed during pursuit with the aid  
19 of dogs.

20 (c) The Board shall consider whether to include within the rule required by  
21 this section provisions related to seasonal restrictions and baiting.

1       Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

2           (a) This section and Secs. 2 (moratorium on pursuing coyote with aid of  
3           dogs) and 3 (Fish and Wildlife Board Rules) shall take effect on passage.

4           (b) Sec. 1 (permit requirement and prohibition on pursuing coyote with aid  
5           of dogs) shall take effect on the effective date of the Fish and Wildlife Board  
6           rules required under Sec. 3 of this act.

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10       (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Senator \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE