

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Natural Resources and Energy to which was referred
3 Senate Bill No. 201 entitled “An act relating to the use of leghold traps“
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. DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE; BEST MANAGEMENT
8 PRACTICES FOR TRAPPING

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

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

12 (5) criteria for when live, captured animals should be released or
13 dispatched.

14 (b) The report required under subsection (a) of this section shall include a
15 recommendation from the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife for funding the
16 replacement of currently authorized trapping devices with trapping devices that
17 are compliant with the recommended BMPs. The Commissioner's
18 recommendation shall include alternatives financed with public funding,
19 private funding, or some combination of public and private funding.

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

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

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

8 § 4861. FUR-BEARING ANIMALS, TAKING, POSSESSION

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

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

18 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

19 This act shall take effect on passage.

20 and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act
21 relating to best management practices for trapping”

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(Committee vote: _____)

Senator _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE