

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 coyote 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 is added to read:

8 § 5008. HUNTING COYOTE WITH DOGS; PROHIBITION; EXCEPTION

9 (a) No person shall pursue coyote with the aid of dogs, either for the  
10 training of dogs or for the taking of coyote, except as provided for under  
11 subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

12 (b) A person may use dogs to pursue coyote on land that they own or  
13 control in order to defend a person or property.

14 (c) A person may use dogs to pursue coyote on land that they do not own or  
15 control in order to defend a person or property provided that:

16 (1) the person who owns or controls the land provides the person who  
17 controls the dogs a written request to take the coyote on the land with the use  
18 of dogs;

19 (2) a game warden issues the person who owns or controls the land and  
20 the person who controls the dogs written approval to take coyote on the land  
21 with the use of dogs; and

1           (3) any approval issued by a game warden shall only be valid for a  
2           period of time not to exceed one week and may only be reissued once for the  
3           land for which the original approval was issued.

4           (d) The Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife shall suspend the hunting  
5           license, fishing license, and trapping license of a person convicted of a  
6           violation of the requirements of this section for a period of five years from the  
7           day of violation and shall fine the person not more than \$1,000.00 nor less than  
8           \$400.00. Upon a second and all subsequent convictions or any conviction  
9           while under license suspension, a violator shall be fined not more than  
10           \$4,000.00 nor less than \$2,000.00.

11       Sec. 2. DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE PROPOSED  
12               LEGISLATION FOR REGULATION OF HUNTING COYOTE  
13               WITH DOGS

14           On or before December 1, 2022, the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife  
15           shall submit to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy and  
16           the House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife draft legislation  
17           establishing requirements or conditions for the use of dogs to pursue coyote for  
18           for the training of dogs or for the taking of coyote. The draft legislation shall:

19           (1) include a proposal for permitting the pursuit of coyote with dogs for  
20           training or dogs;

1           (2) include a proposal for permitting the pursuit of coyote with dogs for  
2           the taking of the coyote;

3           (3) require the dogs used to pursue the coyote to be in the control of the  
4           person issued the permit;

5           (4) exclude use of radio collars, telemetry collars, GPS collars, or  
6           similar collars that locate or track dogs as a method of complying with the  
7           control requirements of subdivision (3) of this section;

8           (5) provide that a person shall be in violation of the prohibition against  
9           unlawful trespass under 13 V.S.A. § 3705 if the person or dogs that the person  
10          controls enters onto land posted in compliance with the requirements of  
11          10 V.S.A. § 5201; and

12          (6) limit to two dogs the number of dogs allowed to be used for the  
13          pursuit of coyote.

14          Sec. 3. IMPLEMENTATION; NOTICE OF PROHIBITION

15          (a) The Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife shall not enforce the  
16          requirements of 10 V.S.A. § 5008 until September 1, 2022.

17          (b) Prior to September 1, 2022, the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife  
18          shall provide public notice of the requirements of 10 V.S.A. § 5008. The  
19          public notice shall include posting notice on kiosks and signs on Department of  
20          Fish and Wildlife lands.

1        (c) The prohibition and requirements of 10 V.S.A. § 5008 shall remain in  
2        effect until amended or repealed by the Vermont General Assembly and  
3        pursuit of coyote as proposed by the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife under  
4        Sec. 2 of this act shall not be authorized until enacted by the Vermont General  
5        Assembly.

6        Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

7        This act shall take effect on passage.

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10       (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Senator \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE