

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 COYOTES 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 WITHOUT

7 LANDOWNER PERMISSION

8 (a) A person shall not release a dog onto land for the purpose of pursuing
9 coyote with the aid of dogs if the landowner or the landowner's agent
10 previously personally communicated to the dog owner or dog handler that
11 pursuing coyote with the aid of dogs is prohibited on the land.

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 (1) is the landowner; or

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

16 (b) This section shall be repealed on the effective date of the Fish and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

18 Sec. 3. FISH AND WILDLIFE BOARD RULES: PURSUING COYOTE
19 WITH THE AID OF DOGS

20 (a) The General Assembly through the rules required under this section
21 intends to reduce conflicts between landowners and persons pursuing coyote

1 with the aid of dogs by reducing the frequency that dogs or persons pursuing
2 coyote enter onto land that is posted against hunting or land where pursuit of
3 coyote with dogs is not authorized.

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 what constitutes the “control” of dogs that shall not
13 allow use of radio collars, telemetry collars, GPS collars, or similar collars to
14 constitute “control” but shall allow a person to use such collars for purposes
15 other than “control”; and

16 (5) required reporting of every coyote killed during pursuit with the aid
17 of dogs.

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

20 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

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

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

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9 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE