1	H.597
2	Introduced by Representative Brennan of Colchester
3	Referred to Committee on
4	Date:
5	Subject: Fish and wildlife; reptiles; amphibians; bear parts; collection; sale;
6	possession
7	Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to authorize the
8	Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife to regulate the sale or possession of
9	reptiles and amphibians in the State. The bill also would amend provisions
10	related to the sale of bear parts.
11	An act relating to the collection, sale, and possession of wildlife
12	It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:
13	Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 4085 is added to read:
14	§ 4085. REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS
15	The Commissioner may adopt rules related to the protection, conservation,
16	and taking of reptiles and amphibians. The rules may:
17	(1) prohibit the possession and importation of species that pose a threat
18	to species and ecosystems in Vermont and allow the Department to establish a
19	list of prohibited or restricted species;

1	(2) allow for waivers for possession of prohibited species legally
2	acquired as a pet prior to the effective date of this section;
3	(3) prohibit the taking and collection of specified reptiles and
4	amphibians;
5	(4) establish open seasons for common species;
6	(5) establish daily, season, and possession limits for common species;
7	(6) establish territorial limits for any rule under this subchapter;
8	(7) prescribe the manner and means of taking any species or variety,
9	including reporting and tagging of game;
10	(8) establish restrictions on taking based upon sex, maturity, or other
11	physical distinction of the species or variety pursued; and
12	(9) designate Wildlife Management Units for various species or
13	varieties.
14	Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 4709 is amended to read:
15	§ 4709. TRANSPORT, IMPORTATION, POSSESSION, AND STOCKING
16	OF WILD ANIMALS; POSSESSION OF WILD BOAR OR FERAL
17	SWINE
18	(a) A person shall not bring into, transport into, transport within, transport
19	through, or possess in the State any live wild bird or animal of any kind,
20	including reptiles and amphibians and any manner of feral swine, without
21	authorization from the Commissioner or his or her designee. The importation

permit may be granted under such regulations therefor as the Commissioner
shall prescribe and only after the Commissioner has made such investigation
and inspection of the birds or animals as she or he the Commissioner may
deem necessary. The Department may dispose of unlawfully possessed or
imported wildlife as it may judge best, and the State may collect treble
damages from the violator of this subsection for all expenses incurred.
(b) No person shall bring into the State from another country, state, or

- (b) No person shall bring into the State from another country, state, or province wildlife illegally taken, transported, or possessed contrary to the laws governing the country, state, or province from which the wildlife originated.
- (c) No person shall place a Vermont-issued tag on wildlife taken outside the State. No person shall report big game in Vermont when the wildlife is taken outside the State.
- (d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the Commissioner or duly authorized agents of the Department of Fish and Wildlife from bringing into the State for the purpose of planting, introducing, or stocking or from planting, introducing, or stocking in the State any wild bird or animal.
- (e) A person shall not take, collect, possess, sell, import, or export any wild bird or animal, or parts thereof, dead or alive, for commercial purposes unless authorized by the rules of the Board, rules of the Commissioner, or a permit from the Commissioner.

scrofo Linnaeus). A feral swine is:

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1	(f) A person shall not take, collect, or possess any reptile or amphibian, or
2	parts thereof, dead or alive, for personal use unless authorized by the rules of
3	the Commissioner or a permit from the Commissioner. Any person who
4	violates this section shall be subject to the penalties set forth in section 4518 of
5	this title and shall pay mitigation upon request by the Commissioner for
6	economic benefits directly to the Department in accordance with section 4047
7	of this title. The Commissioner may bring an action in the unit of the Criminal
8	Division of the Superior Court having jurisdiction over the geographical area
9	where the offense is stated to have occurred to compel reasonable mitigation
10	and recover economic benefits for commercial collection and trade violations
11	under this subsection.
12	(g) Applicants shall pay a permit fee of \$100.00.
13	(f)(h)(1) The Commissioner shall not issue a permit under this section for
14	the importation or possession of the following live species, a hybrid or genetic
15	variant of the following species, offspring of the following species, or
16	offspring or a hybrid of a genetically engineered variant of the following
17	species: feral swine, including wild boar, wild hog, wild swine, feral pig, feral
18	hog, old world swine, razorback, Eurasian wild boar, or Russian wild boar (Sus

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1	Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 4/83 is amended to read:
2	§ 4783. PURCHASE AND SALE OF BIG GAME
3	(a) A person shall not buy or sell big game or the meat of big game within
4	the State except during the open season and for 20 days thereafter.
5	(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, a person may buy or sell
6	at any time:
7	(1) the head, hide, and hoofs of deer or moose legally taken; or
8	(2) the head, or hide, paws, and internal organs of a black bear, legally
9	taken.
10	(c) Neither anadromous Atlantic salmon taken in the Connecticut River
11	Basin nor wild turkey shall be bought or sold at any time. The meat of big
12	game animals shall not be bought or sold for the purpose of being transported
13	out of the State.
14	Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE
15	This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.