

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
  
18  
19  
20

H.473

SHORT FORM

Introduced by Representative Austin of Colchester

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Fish and wildlife; wildlife reintroduction; catamount

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the Department of Fish and Wildlife to conduct a feasibility study of the reintroduction of the puma concolor, commonly referred to as the cougar or catamount, into the State of Vermont. The feasibility study would address how the catamount would be reintroduced, the locations in the State suitable for reintroduction, how to manage conflicts between humans and reintroduced catamount, a metric for determining success of reintroduction, an estimated timeline for reintroduction, and an estimated cost of reintroduction. The Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife would be required to submit the results of the feasibility study to the House Committee on Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy on or before January 1, 2027.

An act relating to the reintroduction of catamounts to the State of Vermont

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

(TEXT OMITTED IN SHORT-FORM BILLS)