

1 H.928

2 Introduced by Committee on Environment

3 Date:

4 Subject: Conservation and development; fish and wildlife conservation;
5 penalties and enforcement; licenses

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make
7 technical changes to the uniform point system statute for fish and wildlife
8 violations. This bill would grant the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife
9 discretion to determine whether annual hunting licenses expire on December
10 31 of the year for which they were issued or 365 days after the date they were
11 issued. This bill also would grant the Department of Fish and Wildlife the
12 ability to assess a fee for additional tags or permits that are not otherwise
13 identified in statute.

14 An act relating to technical corrections to fish and wildlife statutes

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

16 Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 4502 is amended to read:

17 § 4502. UNIFORM POINT SYSTEM; REVOCATION OF LICENSE

18 (a) A uniform point system that assigns points to those convicted of a
19 violation of a provision of this part is established. The conviction report from

1 the court shall be prima facie evidence of the points assessed. In addition to
2 other penalties assessed for violation of fish and wildlife statutes, the
3 Commissioner shall suspend licenses issued under this part that are held by a
4 person who has accumulated 10 or more points in accordance with the
5 provisions of subsection (c) of this section.

6 (b) A person violating provisions of this part shall receive points for
7 convictions in accordance with the following schedule (all sections are in this
8 title of the Vermont Statutes Annotated):

9 (1) Except for biological collection violations determined to be nonpoint
10 violations under the rules of the Board, five points shall be assessed for any
11 violation of statutes or rules adopted under this part except those listed in
12 subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection.

13 (2) Ten points shall be assessed for:

14 * * *

15 (G) § 4704. Use of machine guns, and autoloading rifles, ~~and gun~~
16 ~~suppressors~~

17 (H) § 4705. Shooting from motor vehicles or aircraft, excluding
18 § 4705(a)

19 * * *

1 (GG) Appendix § 44. Trapping, except for violations of Appendix
2 § 44, sections 4.3, 4.4, 4.6, 4.9, 4.10, 4.11, 4.12, 4.14(e) 4.18(b), and 4.14(e)
3 4.18(e)

4 (HH) § 4827. Taking black bear doing damage

5 (II) Appendix § 37, ~~section 10~~ sections 4.1, 7.5, 8.5, 11.0, 11.1, 11.2,
6 11.3, 11.4, 11.5, 13.0, and 13.1. Deer management rule

7 * * *

8 (OO) Appendix § 22a. Taking turkey doing damage

9 (PP) Appendix § 35. Taking moose doing damage

10 * * *

11 ~~(SS) Appendix § 37, section 9.0. Feeding deer Appendix § 7, section~~
12 ~~5.3. Deer management rule~~

(SS) Appendix § 37, section 9.0. Feeding deer [Repealed.]

13 (TT) § 4716. Participating in a coyote-hunting competition

14 (UU) Appendix § 22, sections 6.2, 8.0, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, and 8.5.

15 Turkey seasons

16 (VV) Appendix § 33, section 12. Moose management rule

17 (WW) Appendix § 5. Bow and arrow standards

18 (XX) § 4701. Use of gun, bow and arrow, and crossbow; legal day;
19 dogs.

1 (3) Twenty points shall be assessed for:

2 * * *

3 (E) § 4702. Use of light (firearm ~~or, muzzleloader, air bow or rifle,~~
4 bow, or crossbow involved)

5 * * *

6 ~~(O) Appendix § 7, sections 4.2, 5.3, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3(b), 6.3(d), 6.3(e),~~
7 ~~7.1, 7.2, 7.3, and 7.4, and 8.2. Bear, unauthorized taking~~ Bear management
8 rule

*(O) Appendix § 7, sections 4.0, 4.1, 4.2, 5.3, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3(b), 6.3(d),
6.3(e), 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, and 7.4, and 8.2. Bear, unauthorized taking management
rule*

9 ~~(P) Appendix § 22, sections 4.2, 4.3, 6.4, and 6.5. Turkey season,~~
10 ~~excluding: requirements for youth turkey hunting season; and size of shot used~~
11 ~~or possessed seasons~~

*(P) Appendix § 22, sections 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 6.4, and
6.5. Turkey season, excluding: requirements for youth turkey hunting season;
and size of shot used or possessed seasons*

12 (Q) Appendix § 33, section 13.7. Moose management rule

13 (R) Appendix § 31 ~~(d), (e), and (f)~~. Seasons, bag limits for caribou,
14 elk, and moose

15 (S) Appendix § 116. Atlantic salmon in the Connecticut River

1 (T) § 4521. Failure to stop

2 ~~(U) Appendix § 37, sections 7.4, 8.4, 9.4, 9.5, 12.2, and 14. Deer~~
3 ~~management rule, excluding requirements for youth deer hunting weekend;~~
4 ~~requirements for novice season; limitations on feeding of deer; reporting big~~
5 ~~game, and section 11.0, ban of urine and other natural lures~~

*(U) Appendix § 37, sections 5.1, 6.1, 6.2, 7.1, 7.2, 7.4, 8.1, 8.2, 8.4,
9.1, 9.2, 9.4, 9.5, 12.2, and 14. Deer management rule, excluding
requirements for youth deer hunting weekend; requirements for novice season;
limitations on feeding of deer; reporting big game; and section 11.0, ban of
urine and other natural lures*

6 * * *

7 (EE) § 4705(a). Shooting from a motor vehicle or other motor-
8 propelled craft.

9 * * *

10 Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 4263 is amended to read:

11 § 4263. EXPIRATION; NONTRANSFERABILITY

12 Licenses shall not be transferable and shall be dated when issued. Annual
13 licenses shall be valid from January 1 of the calendar year for which they are
14 issued or from the day of purchase and issue in that year as certified by the
15 issuing agent. All annual licenses shall expire on December 31 of the year for
16 which they were issued or 365 days after the date on which they are issued, as

1 determined by the Commissioner. Term licenses shall be valid only for the
2 time period certified on the license form by the issuing agent. Any licenses
3 may be sold prior to the date that they are to become effective.

4 ~~Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 4255 is amended to read:~~

5 § 4255. LICENSE FEES

6 (a) Vermont residents may apply for licenses on forms provided by the
7 Commissioner. Fees for each license shall be:

8	(1) Fishing license	\$28.00
9	(2) Hunting license	\$28.00
10	(3) Combination hunting and fishing license	\$47.00
11	(4) Big game licenses (all require a hunting license)	
12	(A) archery license	\$23.00
13	(B) muzzle loader license	\$23.00
14	(C) turkey license	\$23.00
15	(D) [Repealed.]	
16	(E) [Repealed.]	
17	(F) moose license	\$100.00
18	(G) bear tag	\$5.00
19	(H) additional deer archery tag	\$23.00
20	(5) Trapping license	\$23.00
21	(6) Hunting license for persons 17 years of age or under	\$8.00

1	(7) Trapping license for persons 17 years of age or under	\$10.00
2	(8) Fishing license for persons 15 through 17 years of age	\$8.00
3	(9) Super sport license	\$150.00
4	(10) Three-day fishing license	\$11.00
5	(11) Combination hunting and fishing license for persons 17 years of	
6	age or under	\$12.00
7	(12) Mentored hunting license	\$10.00
8	* * *	
9	<u>(o) If the Board determines that it is necessary to issue or require additional</u>	
10	<u>big game tags or big game permits that are not otherwise identified in this</u>	
11	<u>section, the Department may issue such tags and permits and may assess a fee</u>	
12	<u>for such tags and permits of not more than the prevailing rate for big game</u>	
13	<u>tags</u>	

Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 4255 is amended to read:

§ 4255. LICENSE FEES

*(a) Vermont residents may apply for licenses on forms provided by the
Commissioner. Fees for each license shall be:*

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| <i>(1) Fishing license</i> | <i>\$28.00</i> |
| <i>(2) Hunting license</i> | <i>\$28.00</i> |
| <i>(3) Combination hunting and fishing license</i> | <i>\$47.00</i> |
| <i>(4) Big game licenses (all require a hunting license)</i> | |

<i>(A) archery license</i>	<i>\$23.00</i>
<i>(B) muzzle loader license</i>	<i>\$23.00</i>
<i>(C) turkey license</i>	<i>\$23.00</i>
<i>(D) [Repealed.]</i>	
<i>(E) [Repealed.]</i>	
<i>(F) moose license</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>
<i>(G) bear tag</i>	<i>\$5.00</i>
<i>(H) additional deer archery tag</i>	<i>\$23.00</i>
<i>(5) Trapping license</i>	<i>\$23.00</i>
<i>(6) Hunting license for persons 17 years of age or under</i>	<i>\$8.00</i>
<i>(7) Trapping license for persons 17 years of age or under</i>	<i>\$10.00</i>
<i>(8) Fishing license for persons 15 through 17 years of age</i>	<i>\$8.00</i>
<i>(9) Super sport license</i>	<i>\$150.00</i>
<i>(10) Three-day fishing license</i>	<i>\$11.00</i>
<i>(11) Combination hunting and fishing license for persons 17 years of age or under</i>	<i>\$12.00</i>
<i>(12) Mentored hunting license</i>	<i>\$10.00</i>

** * **

*(o) If the Board determines that it is necessary to issue or require
additional big game tags or big game permits that are not otherwise identified
in this section, the Department may issue such tags and permits and may*

assess a provisional fee for such tags and permits at an amount equal or similar to the fee for the same big game. The Department shall seek legislative approval of the provisional fee pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 603 within one year following the Department's assessment of the fee. The Department's failure to obtain legislative approval of the provisional fee shall void the provisional fee and the Department shall not assess a new provisional fee for the same big game tag or big game permit.

(p) The Commissioner may assess the following fees for the use of Department of Fish and Wildlife lands and facilities. All fees or charges collected for the use of Department of Fish and Wildlife lands and facilities shall be deposited in the Fish and Wildlife Fund:

(1) Rental of the Edward F. Kehoe Education Center:

(A) Partnering organizations and municipalities:

(i) Education Center day use (per day for use of all facilities):

\$300.00

(ii) Damage deposit (refundable if all requirements are met):

\$150.00 per rental

(iii) Cabin rental (rate is for four persons, \$5.00 per additional person):

\$60.00 per night

(B) School groups (K-12) day use:

\$5.00 per student

(C) Private entity: Education Center day use (per day for use of all facilities): \$600.00

(D) Weddings: \$5,000.00, or \$4,000.00 if a certified wedding planner is used for the event

(2) Rental of Buck Lake Conservation Camp:

(A) Partnering organizations and municipalities:

(i) Education Center day use (per day/all facilities): \$300.00

(ii) Damage deposit (refundable if all requirements met):

\$150.00 per rental

(B) Private entity:

(i) Education Center day use (per day/all facilities): \$600.00

(ii) Cabin rentals (rate is for four persons, \$5.00 per additional person): \$60.00 per night

(3) Controlled waterfowl hunt (Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area or Mud Creek Wildlife Management Area): \$10.00 per person

(4) Meeting rooms:

(A) Grand Isle Fish Culture Station: \$25.00 per day

(B) Gordon Center Training Facility, overnight accommodations:

\$25.00 per person per night

(5) Special use permit: \$50.00 minimum–\$10,000.00 maximum

(6) License: \$50.00 minimum–\$10,000.00 maximum

1 Sec. 4. 1999 Acts and Resolves No. 1, Sec. 87a is amended to read:

2 Sec. 87a. GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS

3 The following amounts are appropriated in fiscal year 1999 to the secretary
4 of administration, for transfer and use by the referenced departments as
5 indicated:

6 (A) To the Vermont housing and conservation board for Champion
7 land acquisition and affordable housing \$5,500,000

8 * * *

9 (ii) With respect to lands commonly referred to as the Champion
10 lands, the agency of natural resources, in a manner consistent with other
11 statutory obligations and authority, shall:

12 * * *

13 ~~(II) Plan and Involve the Community. Involve Vermont citizens~~
14 ~~and municipalities in developing and updating every 10 years a long-term~~
15 ~~comprehensive plan for management of portions of the lands which are~~
16 ~~transferred to it. [Repealed.]~~

*(II) Plan and Involve the Community. Involve Vermont citizens
and municipalities ~~in~~ when developing and updating every 10 years a the long-
term comprehensive plan for management of portions of the lands which are
transferred to it.*

1

* * *

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Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

3

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.