

1 **Alternative 1**

2 Sec. 6. 10 V.S.A. § 4085 is added to read:

3 § 4085. REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

4 (a) The Commissioner shall adopt rules related to the protection,
5 conservation, and taking of reptiles and amphibians. The rules shall:

6 (1) prohibit the intentional taking of reptiles and amphibians, except for
7 authorized takings for scientific, educational, or noncommercial cultural or
8 ceremonial purposes;

9 (2) prohibit the possession and importation of species or reptiles or
10 amphibians that pose a threat to species and ecosystems in Vermont, which
11 may include a list of prohibited or restricted species, except that the rules shall
12 allow for possession of prohibited species legally acquired as a pet prior to July
13 1, 2025; and

14 (3) prohibit the collection or possession of specified reptiles and
15 amphibians for commercial use, export, or sale.

16 (b) As part of the rules required under subsection (a) of this section, the
17 Commissioner may adopt rules that establish requirements, possession limits,
18 territorial limits, or manner of taking for those takings of reptiles or
19 amphibians authorized under the rules required by subsection (a) of this
20 section.

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1 **Alternative 2.**

2 Sec. 6. 10 V.S.A. § 4085 is added to read:

3 § 4085. REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS; TAKING; POSSESSION

4 (a)(1) A person shall not take a reptile or amphibian in the State unless
5 authorized by rules adopted under subsection (b) of this section.

6 (2) A person shall not possess or import a species of reptile or
7 amphibian that, as determined by the Commissioner by rule under subsection
8 (b), poses a threat to species and ecosystems in Vermont, except that the rules
9 shall allow for possession of prohibited species legally acquired as a pet prior
10 to July 1, 2025. A rule adopted under this subdivision may include a list of
11 prohibited or restricted species

12 (3) A person shall not collect or possess reptiles and amphibians
13 specified by the Commissioner by rule for commercial use, export, or sale.

14 (b)(1) The Commissioner, by rule, may allow the taking of a reptile or
15 amphibian that has been classified as common, widespread, and abundant,
16 known as S5 ranked species, with stable or increasing populations indicated by
17 data collected by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

18 (2) The Commissioner under criteria adopted by rule, may allow a
19 person to take, collect, or possess a specified reptile or amphibian for
20 scientific, educational, or noncommercial cultural or ceremonial purposes.