

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife to which was  
3 referred House Bill No. 411 entitled “An act relating to the retrieval and  
4 disposal of wild animals” respectfully reports that it has considered the same  
5 and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting  
6 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. chapter 113, subchapter 7 is added to read:

8 Subchapter 7. Retrieval and Use of Covered Wild Animals

9 § 4921. DEFINITION

10 As used in this subchapter, “covered wild animal” means an animal that is a  
11 big game animal, game quadruped, game bird, fur-bearing animal, or crow.

12 § 4922. RETRIEVAL AND DISPOSAL OF COVERED WILD ANIMALS

13 A person shall not intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly kill a covered  
14 wild animal and intentionally or knowingly fail to make a reasonable effort to  
15 retrieve the covered wild animal and use or dispose of the covered wild animal  
16 as provided under this subchapter.

17 § 4923. USE OF COVERED WILD ANIMAL

18 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a person who  
19 retrieves a lawfully taken covered wild animal, or a person to whom the  
20 lawfully taken covered wild animal is transferred, shall retain the animal in his

1 or her possession until it is: processed as food; processed for its fur, bones,  
2 hide, or feathers; or used for taxidermy.

3 (b) This section shall not apply to covered wild animals that are unfit for  
4 consumption or use. As used in this section, “unfit for consumption or use”  
5 means the covered wild animal or its parts that are damaged, destroyed,  
6 decayed, rotting, diseased, or infected.

7 § 4924. EXCEPTIONS

8 The requirements of sections 4922 and 4923 of this title shall not apply:

9 (1) when the failure to retrieve and dispose, the failure to salvage, or the  
10 failure to retain the covered wild animal is beyond the control of the person  
11 due to:

12 (A) theft of the covered wild animal by another person;

13 (B) unanticipated weather conditions or other act of God that  
14 prevents salvage, retrieval, or retention;

15 (C) unavoidable loss in the field to a wild animal; or

16 (D) lack of legal access to property where a wounded or dead  
17 covered wild animal is located, including when signage on the property would  
18 lead a reasonable person to believe that hunting is prohibited on the land;

19 (2) in order to defend a person or property, including defense of  
20 property authorized under this part or rules adopted under this part;

21 (3) when the covered wild animal is sick or diseased;

1           (4) to a State, federal, or municipal law enforcement officer or employee  
2           when the law enforcement officer or employee is acting within the course of  
3           his or her employment; or

4           (5) when following generally accepted hunting, trapping, or fishing  
5           practices for retrieval of a covered wild animal, including requirements or  
6           practices under this part or rules adopted under this part.

7           § 4925. DISPOSAL

8           A person shall not place, leave, dump, or abandon the carcass or parts of a  
9           covered wild animal:

10           (1) along or upon a public right-of-way or highway;

11           (2) upon a private property posted in accordance with section 4710 or  
12           5201 of this title without permission of the owner or the owner’s agent; or

13           (3) where prohibited by State or municipal law.

14           Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

15           This act shall take effect on passage.

16           and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act  
17           relating to the retrieval and **use** of covered wild animals”

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20           (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Representative \_\_\_\_\_

FOR THE COMMITTEE