



2020 South Dakota Legislature
House Concurrent Resolution
6014
ENROLLED

AN ACT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, To encourage the Department of Game, Fish and Parks in 2020, as part of the biennial review of endangered and threatened species, to delist the river otter and manage this species as a harvested furbearer if scientifically-sound biological and ecological data support such a decision.

WHEREAS, the Department of Game, Fish and Parks has a primary statutory responsibility under chapter 41-2 for the management of fish and wildlife and is authorized to promulgate rules in furtherance thereof; and

WHEREAS, the department has a statutory responsibility under chapter 34A-8 for the management of state listed endangered and threatened species; and

WHEREAS, based on the delisting criteria developed by staff and adopted by the Game, Fish and Parks Commission on April 5, 2018, river otter distribution and reproduction in the recovery area have been confirmed at or above thresholds identified in the delisting criteria; and

WHEREAS, as a result of meeting or exceeding the thresholds identified in the delisting criteria, the department is recommending that the commission delist the river otter in 2020, with associated, required public involvement and coordination; and

WHEREAS, the department is working on revising the current river otter management plan and intends to present the revised management plan for public comment in 2020; and

WHEREAS, a component of the revised management plan will include short and long-term population monitoring strategies and recommendations for a harvest strategy for river otters; and

WHEREAS, the department will begin the process of obtaining an approved export program for river otter fur that is harvested; and

WHEREAS, the department will bring before the commission a package of recommendations to promulgate rules to establish a harvest strategy for implementation in 2020:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Fifth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature supports the planned efforts of the Department of Game, Fish and Parks regarding the recovery and management of river otters for the sustainable use and enjoyment of all residents and visitors of this state.

Adopted by the House of Representatives,
Concurred in by the Senate,

February 20, 2020
March 4, 2020

Steven G. Haugaard
Speaker of the House

Mary Lou Goehring
Chief Clerk

Larry Rhoden
President of the Senate

Kay Johnson
Secretary of the Senate