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Introduced by Representatives Lewis of Derby, Brennan of Colchester,
McAllister of Highgate, McCullough of Williston, McNeil of
Rutland Town, Savage of Swanton and South of St. Johnsbury
Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Fish and game; penalties; trophy big game animal

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to increase the monetary penalties for
big game violations and increase the restitution values for illegally taken
wildlife.

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An act relating to the illegal taking of trophy big game animals

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

~~Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 4514 is amended to read:~~

~~§ 4514. POSSESSION OF FLESH OF GAME~~

~~(a) When legally taken, the flesh of a fish or wild animal may be possessed
for food for a reasonable time thereafter and such flesh may be transported and
stored in a public cold storage plant. Nothing in this section shall authorize the
possession of game birds or carcasses or parts thereof contrary to regulations
made pursuant to the migratory bird treaty act.~~

1 ~~Any person convicted of illegally taking, destroying or possessing wild~~
2 ~~animals shall, in addition to other penalties provided under this chapter, pay~~
3 ~~into the fish and wildlife fund for each animal taken, destroyed or possessed,~~
4 ~~no more than the following amounts:~~

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 5 | (1) Big game | \$1,000.00 <u>\$2,000.00</u> each |
| 6 | (2) Endangered or threatened species as | |
| 7 | defined in section 5401 of this title | 1,000.00 <u>\$2,000.00</u> each |
| 8 | (3) Small game | 250.00 <u>\$500.00</u> each |
| 9 | (4) Fish | 25.00 <u>\$25.00</u> each |

10 Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 4518 is amended to read:

11 § 4518. BIG GAME VIOLATIONS

12 Whoever violates a provision of this part or orders or rules of the board
13 relating to taking, possessing, transporting, buying, or selling of big game shall
14 be fined not more than ~~\$500.00~~ \$1,000.00 nor less than ~~\$200.00~~ \$400.00 or
15 imprisoned for not more than 60 days, or both. Upon a second and all
16 subsequent convictions, the violator shall be fined not more than ~~\$1,000.00~~
17 \$2,000.00 nor less than ~~\$500.00~~ \$1,000.00 or imprisoned for not more than ~~60~~
18 120 days, or both.

19 ec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

20 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 4514 is amended to read:

§ 4514. POSSESSION OF FLESH OF GAME

(a) When legally taken, the flesh of a fish or wild animal may be possessed for food for a reasonable time thereafter and such flesh may be transported and stored in a public cold storage plant. Nothing in this section shall authorize the possession of game birds or carcasses or parts thereof contrary to regulations made pursuant to the migratory bird treaty act.

(b) Any person convicted of illegally taking, destroying or possessing wild animals shall, in addition to other penalties provided under this chapter, pay into the fish and wildlife fund for each animal taken, destroyed or possessed, no more than the following amounts:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <i>(1) Big game</i> | <i>\$1,000.00 <u>\$2,000.00</u> each</i> |
| <i>(2) Endangered or threatened species as defined in section 5401 of this title</i> | <i>1,000.00 <u>\$2,000.00</u> each</i> |
| <i>(3) Small game</i> | <i>250.00 <u>\$500.00</u> each</i> |
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