

1 H.597

2 Introduced by Representative Brennan of Colchester

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Fish and wildlife; reptiles; amphibians; bear parts; collection; sale;
6 possession

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to authorize the
8 Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife to regulate the sale or possession of
9 reptiles and amphibians in the State. The bill also would amend provisions
10 related to the sale of bear parts.

11 An act relating to the collection, sale, and possession of wildlife

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

13 Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 4085 is added to read:

14 § 4085. REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

15 The Commissioner may adopt rules related to the protection, conservation,
16 and taking of reptiles and amphibians. The rules may:

17 (1) prohibit the possession and importation of species that pose a threat
18 to species and ecosystems in Vermont and allow the Department to establish a
19 list of prohibited or restricted species;

1 (2) allow for waivers for possession of prohibited species legally
2 acquired as a pet prior to the effective date of this section;

3 (3) prohibit the taking and collection of specified reptiles and
4 amphibians;

5 (4) establish open seasons for common species;

6 (5) establish daily, season, and possession limits for common species;

7 (6) establish territorial limits for any rule under this subchapter;

8 (7) prescribe the manner and means of taking any species or variety,
9 including reporting and tagging of game;

10 (8) establish restrictions on taking based upon sex, maturity, or other
11 physical distinction of the species or variety pursued; and

12 (9) designate Wildlife Management Units for various species or
13 varieties.

14 Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 4709 is amended to read:

15 § 4709. TRANSPORT, IMPORTATION, POSSESSION, AND STOCKING
16 OF WILD ANIMALS; POSSESSION OF WILD BOAR OR FERAL
17 SWINE

18 (a) A person shall not bring into, transport into, transport within, transport
19 through, or possess in the State any live wild bird or animal of any kind,
20 including reptiles and amphibians and any manner of feral swine, without
21 authorization from the Commissioner or ~~his or her~~ designee. The importation

1 permit may be granted under such regulations therefor as the Commissioner
2 shall prescribe and only after the Commissioner has made such investigation
3 and inspection of the birds or animals as ~~she or he~~ the Commissioner may
4 deem necessary. The Department may dispose of unlawfully possessed or
5 imported wildlife as it may judge best, and the State may collect treble
6 damages from the violator of this subsection for all expenses incurred.

7 (b) No person shall bring into the State from another country, state, or
8 province wildlife illegally taken, transported, or possessed contrary to the laws
9 governing the country, state, or province from which the wildlife originated.

10 (c) No person shall place a Vermont-issued tag on wildlife taken outside
11 the State. No person shall report big game in Vermont when the wildlife is
12 taken outside the State.

13 (d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the Commissioner or duly
14 authorized agents of the Department of Fish and Wildlife from bringing into
15 the State for the purpose of planting, introducing, or stocking or from planting,
16 introducing, or stocking in the State any wild bird or animal.

17 (e) A person shall not take, collect, possess, sell, import, or export any wild
18 bird or animal, or parts thereof, dead or alive, for commercial purposes unless
19 authorized by the rules of the Board, rules of the Commissioner, or a permit
20 from the Commissioner.

1 Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 4783 is amended to read:

2 § 4783. PURCHASE AND SALE OF BIG GAME

3 (a) A person shall not buy or sell big game or the meat of big game within
4 the State except during the open season and for 20 days thereafter.

5 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, a person may buy or sell
6 at any time:

7 (1) the head, hide, and hoofs of deer or moose legally taken; or

8 (2) the head, or hide, ~~paws, and internal organs~~ of a black bear, legally
9 taken.

10 (c) Neither anadromous Atlantic salmon taken in the Connecticut River
11 Basin nor wild turkey shall be bought or sold at any time. The meat of big
12 game animals shall not be bought or sold for the purpose of being transported
13 out of the State.

14 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.