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H.211

Introduced by Representatives Bates of Bennington, McCullough of Williston,
and Sullivan of Dorset

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Fish and wildlife; game; hunting; big game; air guns

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to prohibit the
use of air guns to take big game.

An act relating to prohibiting the use of air guns to take big game

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

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 4001 is amended to read:

§ 4001. DEFINITIONS

Words and phrases used in this part, unless otherwise provided, shall be
construed to mean as follows:

* * *

(9) Game: game birds or game quadrupeds, or both.

* * *

(12) Game quadruped: caribou, elk, moose, deer, gray squirrel, rabbit,
and black bear.

* * *

1 Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 4747 is amended to read:

2 § 4747. BIG GAME TAKEN BY ILLEGAL MEANS

3 A person shall not take or possess big game by the aid of a snare, trap, salt
4 lick, jack, or other light or use these devices to entrap or ensnare big game. A
5 person shall not use a dog of any breed or sex at any time for the purpose of
6 hunting any big game except black bear and wild turkey as provided in fish
7 and wildlife rules, nor shall he or she harbor or have in his or her possession a
8 dog for this purpose. A person other than the owner or a person designated by
9 the owner shall not take a confined fallow deer or a confined red deer. A
10 person shall not take big game with an air gun.

11 Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 4502 is amended to read:

12 § 4502. UNIFORM POINT SYSTEM; REVOCATION OF LICENSE

13 (a) A uniform point system that assigns points to those convicted of a
14 violation of a provision of this part is established. The conviction report from
15 the Court shall be prima facie evidence of the points assessed. In addition to
16 other penalties assessed for violation of fish and wildlife statutes, the
17 Commissioner shall suspend licenses issued under this part ~~which~~ that are held
18 by a person who has accumulated 10 or more points in accordance with the
19 provisions of subsection (c) of this section.

1 (b) A person violating provisions of this part shall receive points for
2 convictions in accordance with the following schedule (all sections are in this
3 title of the Vermont Statutes Annotated):

4 (1) Except for biological collection violations determined to be nonpoint
5 violations under the rules of the Board, five points shall be assessed for any
6 violation of statutes or rules adopted under this part except those listed in
7 subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection.

8 (2) Ten points shall be assessed for:

9 * * *

10 (UU) § 4747. Solely for taking big game with an air gun.

11 (3) Twenty points shall be assessed for:

12 * * *

13 (J) § 4747. Taking big game by illegal means, except for taking big
14 game with an air gun

15 * * *

16 (4) In addition to other points assessed under this subsection, a person
17 shall be assessed one point for each fish, bird, animal, or pelt possessed, taken,
18 transported, bought, or sold in excess of the limits established in statutes or
19 rules adopted under this part.

20 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

21 This act shall take effect on passage.