

H.60 Amendment – Improvements to the Report on Coyote Hunting in Vermont
Sec. 1. FISH AND WILDLIFE BOARD REPORT ON THE REGULATION 14 OF
COYOTE HUNTING

(a) On or before January 15, 2018, ~~the Fish and Wildlife Board, after consultation with the Department of Fish and Wildlife,~~ in consultation with interested parties, including independent wildlife experts and members of the public, shall submit a report to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy regarding regulation of the hunting of coyotes in Vermont. The report shall include

1.) An estimated population of coyotes in the State of Vermont, including an analysis of the method used to calculate the population estimate.

2.) Kill data for the last ten years by methods of take.

3.) An evaluation of the open season on coyote demographics, family unit/pack stability, and reproductive patterns, including an explanation of the ecological benefits of predator species.

4.) A summary of how Vermont regulates the hunting of coyotes, including the scientific basis for current regulations.

5.) An explanation of whether the current open season reflects the principles of the North American Wildlife Conservation Model or encourages behavior that leads to the wanton waste of coyotes.

6.) A summary of how other states regulate the hunting of coyotes, including whether other states implement closed seasons, limit hunting of coyotes at night, prohibit hunting contests, restrict the use of dogs, require weighing and tagging or utilization of bodies, ban the use of calling devices, or establish bag limits for the number of coyotes taken in a day or a season.

7.) A recommendation of whether Vermont should adopt by rule additional regulations for the hunting of coyotes, including whether Vermont should establish a closed season for the hunting of coyotes. The ~~Board~~ Department shall provide data or a basis supporting the recommendation.

~~(b) The Fish and Wildlife Board shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Fish and Wildlife for the purpose of preparing the report required by this section.~~