

## Adopted Filing – Coversheet

### **Instructions:**

In accordance with Title 3 Chapter 25 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated and the “Rule on Rulemaking” adopted by the Office of the Secretary of State, this filing will be considered complete upon filing and acceptance of these forms with the Office of the Secretary of State, and the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules.

All forms shall be submitted at the Office of the Secretary of State, no later than 3:30 pm on the last scheduled day of the work week.

The data provided in text areas of these forms will be used to generate a notice of rulemaking in the portal of “Proposed Rule Postings” online, and the newspapers of record if the rule is marked for publication. Publication of notices will be charged back to the promulgating agency.

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**PLEASE REMOVE ANY COVERSHEET OR FORM NOT  
REQUIRED WITH THE CURRENT FILING BEFORE DELIVERY!**

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**Certification Statement:** As the adopting Authority of this rule (see 3 V.S.A. § 801 (b) (11) for a definition), I approve the contents of this filing entitled:

**10 App. V.S.A. § 2, Report, Big Game**

\_\_\_\_\_/s/ Jason Batchelder\_\_\_\_\_, on

9/3/2026

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

Printed Name and Title:

Jason M. Batchelder, Commissioner

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Secretary, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Coversheet
- ☐ Adopting Page
- ☐ Clean text of the rule (Amended text without annotation)
- ☐ Letter regarding changes to the final proposed

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

**10 App. V.S.A. § 2, Report, Big Game**

2. PROPOSED NUMBER ASSIGNED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

26P 014

3. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

4. RECORDS EXEMPTION INCLUDED WITHIN RULE:

*(DOES THE RULE CONTAIN ANY PROVISION DESIGNATING INFORMATION AS CONFIDENTIAL; LIMITING ITS PUBLIC RELEASE; OR OTHERWISE, EXEMPTING IT FROM INSPECTION AND COPYING?)* No

IF YES, CITE THE STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THE EXEMPTION:

PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE REASON FOR THE EXEMPTION:

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY / ENABLING LEGISLATION:

*(THE SPECIFIC STATUTORY OR LEGAL CITATION FROM SESSION LAW INDICATING WHO THE ADOPTING ENTITY IS AND THUS WHO THE SIGNATORY SHOULD BE. THIS SHOULD BE A SPECIFIC CITATION NOT A CHAPTER CITATION).*

10 V.S.A. § 4082 (a); 10 V.S.A. § 4084 (a) (4) .

6. THE FILING HAS CHANGED SINCE THE FILING OF THE FINAL PROPOSED RULE.

7. THE AGENCY HAS INCLUDED WITH THIS FILING A LETTER EXPLAINING IN DETAIL WHAT CHANGES WERE MADE, CITING CHAPTER AND SECTION WHERE APPLICABLE, INCLUDING CHANGES IN ECONOMIC IMPACT.

8. THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES DID NOT OBJECT TO THE FINAL PROPOSAL.

9. PROCEDURAL HISTORY OF ADOPTION:

ICAR Filing: 5/26/2026

Proposal Filed with Office of the Secretary of State: 6/12/2026

Notices Posted Online: 6/17/2026

Notices Published in the Newspapers of Record: 6/25/2026

A Hearing WAS Held.

Hearings Held (*PLEASE USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS TO PROVIDE THE DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF ALL HEARINGS, IF THIS FORM IS INSUFFICIENT TO LIST ALL HEARINGS HELD*):

Date: 7/17/2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Street Address: Dill Building, 2178 Airport Road,  
Barre, Vermont

Zip Code: 05641

URL for Virtual:

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Date:

Time: AM

Street Address:

Zip Code:

URL for Virtual:

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Date:

Time: AM

Street Address:

Zip Code:

URL for Virtual:

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Date:

Time: AM

Street Address:

Zip Code:

URL for Virtual:

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Deadline for Public Comment: 7/24/2026

Final Proposal —

Filed with Secretary of State: 07/29/2026

Filed with LCAR: 07/29/2026

Dates of LCAR Review: 08/20/2026, , , ,

Adopted Rule —

Filed with Secretary of State: 09/03/2026

Filed with LCAR: 09/03/2026

10. EFFECTIVE DATE: 9/19/2026

*(A RULE MAY TAKE EFFECT 15 DAYS AFTER ADOPTION IS COMPLETE OR AT A LATER TIME PROVIDED IN THE TEXT OF THE RULE SEE 3 V.S.A. §845(d) FOR DETAILS).*

## Adopting Page

### **Instructions:**

This form must accompany each filing made during the rulemaking process:

Note: To satisfy the requirement for an annotated text, an agency must submit the entire rule in annotated form with proposed and final proposed filings. Filing an annotated paragraph or page of a larger rule is not sufficient. Annotation must clearly show the changes to the rule.

When possible, the agency shall file the annotated text, using the appropriate page or pages from the Code of Vermont Rules as a basis for the annotated version. New rules need not be accompanied by an annotated text.

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1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

**10 App. V.S.A. § 2, Report, Big Game**

2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

3. TYPE OF FILING (*PLEASE CHOOSE THE TYPE OF FILING FROM THE DROPDOWN MENU BASED ON THE DEFINITIONS PROVIDED BELOW*):

- **AMENDMENT** - Any change to an already existing rule, even if it is a complete rewrite of the rule, it is considered an amendment if the rule is replaced with other text.
- **NEW RULE** - A rule that did not previously exist even under a different name.
- **REPEAL** - The removal of a rule in its entirety, without replacing it with other text.

This filing is **AN AMENDMENT OF AN EXISTING RULE** .

4. LAST ADOPTED (*PLEASE PROVIDE THE SOS LOG#, TITLE AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE LAST ADOPTION FOR THE EXISTING RULE*):

10 App. V.S.A. § 2, Report, Big Game, Last adopted  
October 23, 2020, SOS Log #20-037.

**10 App. V.S.A. § 2. Report, big game**

(a) Unless otherwise specified in the 10 App. V.S.A. section relating to the specific big game species, a person taking big game, as defined by 10 V.S.A. § 4001, pursuant to the seasons provided by law or regulation of the Fish and Wildlife Board, shall within 48 hours report the taking and exhibit the carcass in the manner required by the Commissioner. The Commissioner may authorize a person taking big game to report in the following manners including but not limited to; electronic reporting via email or website or mobile application, telephone, or in-person reporting. The Commissioner may waive the exhibition of the carcass unless requested by a warden. The Commissioner shall publish the reporting and exhibition requirements. No person shall knowingly make any false statement or include false information in such report, including false information related to the name of the person who harvested the big game animal and the date, time, and location of said harvest.

(b) Notwithstanding the reporting requirements of 10 App. V.S.A. § 7, subsection 8.3 of the Bear Management Rule, and 10 App. V.S.A. § 33 subsection 13 of the Moose Management Rule, in the event of an emergency, the Commissioner may authorize any person who takes big game to report and exhibit the carcass in the manner required by the Commissioner. The Commissioner shall publish the reporting and exhibition requirements during the emergency period. For the purposes of this section, “emergency” shall mean “a serious, unexpected, and dangerous situation that poses a threat to public health or safety, or to wildlife or natural resources, and requires immediate action.”

(c) No big game carcass shall be transported out of the State without first being reported as required herein.

(d) The Commissioner shall pay to the authorized agent a fee of no less than \$1.00 and no more than \$5.00, to be determined by the Commissioner, for each report taken on species where reports are required by law.

**Fish & Wildlife Department**  
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*Agency Of Natural Resources*

September 3, 2026

Louise Corliss  
Administrative Services / APA Manager I  
Vermont State Archives & Records Administration (VSARA)  
1078 U.S. Rte 2 Middlesex  
Montpelier, VT 05633-7701

**Re: Changes to 10 App. V.S.A. § 2, Report, Big Game**

Dear Ms. Corliss,

On Wednesday, July 29th, the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife filed the Final Proposed rule packages for four rules with the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR). This included the filing package for 10 App. V.S.A. § 2, Report, Big Game. On August 13<sup>th</sup>, the Department received an email from Legislative Counsel requesting clarification on the proposed rule language modifying the authorized reimbursement to big game reporting stations.

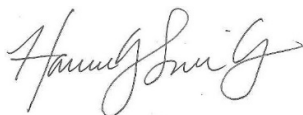
In response to the questions raised by LCAR, the Department proposed the following highlighted change to subparagraph (d) of the Final Proposed language:

(d) The Commissioner shall pay to the authorized agent a fee of no less than \$1.00 and no more than \$5.00, to be determined by the Commissioner, for each report taken on species where reports are required by law.

This change is intended to reduce ambiguity around the Department's discretion in setting the reimbursement dollar amount. Through the budgeting process, the Department is granted a specific appropriation authorizing the expenditure of special funds to reimburse big game reporting stations. The Department intends to increase the reimbursement amount to \$5 at the Board's direction, but the rule language is intended to maintain the Department's ability to reimburse at a lower dollar amount should the Department not be granted commensurate spending authority in future budget cycles.

LCAR approved the rule with the above language change at the August 20<sup>th</sup> LCAR hearing.

Sincerely,



Hannah Smith, Esq., General Counsel  
Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife

