TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

The Committee on Natural Resources and Energy to which was referred House Bill No. 928 entitled "An act relating to technical corrections to fish and wildlife statutes" respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, 10 V.S.A. § 4502, in subsection (b), in subdivision (2), by striking out subdivision (SS) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (SS) to read as follows:

(SS) ~~Appendix § 37, section 9.0. Feeding deer~~ [Repealed.]

Second: In Sec. 1, 10 V.S.A. § 4502, in subsection (b), in subdivision (3), by striking out subdivision (O) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (O) to read as follows:

(O) Appendix § 7, sections 4.0, 4.1, 4.2, 5.3, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3(b), 6.3(d), 6.3(e), 7.1, 7.2, ~~7.3, and~~ 7.4, and 8.2. Bear~~, unauthorized taking~~ management rule

Third: In Sec. 1, 10 V.S.A. § 4502, in subsection (b), in subdivision (3), by striking out subdivision (P) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (P) to read as follows:

(P) Appendix § 22, sections 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 6.4, and 6.5. Turkey ~~season, excluding: requirements for youth turkey hunting season; and size of shot used or possessed~~ seasons

Fourth: In Sec. 1, 10 V.S.A. § 4502, in subsection (b), in subdivision (3), by striking out subdivision (U) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (U) to read as follows:

(U) Appendix § 37, sections 5.1, 6.1, 6.2, 7.1, 7.2, 7.4, 8.1, 8.2, 8.4, 9.1, 9.2, 9.4, 9.5, 12.2, and 14. Deer management rule~~, excluding requirements for youth deer hunting weekend; requirements for novice season; limitations on feeding of deer; reporting big game; and section 11.0, ban of urine and other natural lures~~

Fifth: By adding one new section to be Sec. 4a to be read as follows:

Sec. 4a. 10 V.S.A. § 4613 is amended to read:

§ 4613. FISHING TOURNAMENTS

(a)(1) No person or organization shall hold a fishing tournament on the waters of the State without first obtaining a permit from the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Applications for a permit to hold a fishing tournament on the waters of the State shall be submitted on a form issued by the Commissioner.

(2)(A) For any application for a fishing tournament permit, the Department of Fish and Wildlife shall post notice of the tournament on the Department's website.

(B) Tournaments held on the Connecticut River, excluding Moore and Comerford Reservoirs, that do not utilize an access area in Vermont are not required to obtain a permit from the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

(3) The Department of Fish and Wildlife shall consult with the Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division of the Department of Environmental Conservation to develop best management practices for fishing tournaments permitted on public waters that serve as a source for public drinking water systems. The best management practices shall be designed to mitigate any potential impact of a fishing tournament on a public water system. The best management practices shall be incorporated into fishing tournament permits issued by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

(b) A ~~fishing tournament~~ fishing tournament means a contest in which anglers pay a fee to enter and in which the entrants compete for a prize based on the quality or size of the fish they catch. A contest may run multiple days, but the days must be consecutive for that contest to be considered a single event. A tournament that limits the entrants to ~~people~~ individuals below 15 years of age or a tournament held as part of a Special Olympics program shall be exempt from paying the fee required under subsection (d) of this section.

(c) The Commissioner shall adopt rules that establish the procedure for implementation of this section. The rules shall include a provision that an angler may not enter a fish that was caught and confined to an enclosed area prior to the beginning of the tournament.

(d) The Commissioner shall charge a fee based on the number of participants for each permit issued under this section and shall deposit the fee collected into the Fish and Wildlife Fund. Tournaments with up to 25 participants shall pay a fee of $10.00; tournaments with 26 to 50 participants shall pay a fee of $30.00; and tournaments with more than 50 participants shall pay a fee of $100.00.

(Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE