



## 2020 South Dakota Legislature

# House Concurrent Resolution 6014

Introduced by: **Representative** McCleerey

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, To encourage the Department of Game, Fish and**  
2 **Parks in 2020, as part of the biennial review of endangered and threatened**  
3 **species, to delist the river otter and manage this species as a harvested**  
4 **furbearer if scientifically-sound biological and ecological data support such a**  
5 **decision.**

6 WHEREAS, the Department of Game, Fish and Parks has a primary statutory responsibility  
7 under chapter 41-2 for the management of fish and wildlife and is authorized to promulgate  
8 rules in furtherance thereof; and

9 WHEREAS, the department has a statutory responsibility under chapter 34A-8 for the  
10 management of state listed endangered and threatened species; and

11 WHEREAS, based on the delisting criteria developed by staff and adopted by the Game,  
12 Fish and Parks Commission on April 5, 2018, river otter distribution and reproduction in the  
13 recovery area have been confirmed at or above thresholds identified in the delisting criteria;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, as a result of meeting or exceeding the thresholds identified in the delisting  
16 criteria, the department is recommending that the commission delist the river otter in 2020,  
17 with associated, required public involvement and coordination; and

18 WHEREAS, the department is working on revising the current river otter management plan  
19 and intends to present the revised management plan for public comment in 2020; and

20 WHEREAS, a component of the revised management plan will include short and long-term  
21 population monitoring strategies and recommendations for a harvest strategy for river otters;  
22 and

1        WHEREAS, the department will begin the process of obtaining an approved export program  
2 for river otter fur that is harvested; and

3        WHEREAS, the department will bring before the commission a package of  
4 recommendations to promulgate rules to establish a harvest strategy for implementation in  
5 2020;

6        NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Fifth  
7 Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature  
8 supports the planned efforts of the Department of Game, Fish and Parks regarding the  
9 recovery and management of river otters for the sustainable use and enjoyment of all  
10 residents and visitors of this state.