

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Agriculture to which was referred House Bill No. 877  
3 entitled “An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects” respectfully  
4 reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the Senate  
5 propose to the House that the bill be amended by striking out Sec. 10, effective  
6 date, and its reader assistance heading in their entirety and inserting in lieu  
7 thereof a reader assistance heading and three new sections to be Secs. 10-12 to  
8 read as follows:

9 \* \* \* Animals at Large \* \* \*

10 Sec. 10. 24 V.S.A. § 2291 is amended to read:

11 § 2291. ENUMERATION OF POWERS

12 For the purpose of promoting the public health, safety, welfare, and  
13 convenience, a town, city, or incorporated village shall have the following  
14 powers:

15 \* \* \*

16 (21) To regulate, by means of a civil ordinance adopted pursuant to  
17 chapter 59 of this title, subject to the limitations of 13 V.S.A. § 351b and the  
18 requirement of 13 V.S.A. § 354(a), and consistent with the rules adopted by the  
19 Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, pursuant to 13 V.S.A. § 352b(a),  
20 the welfare of animals in the municipality. Such ordinance may be enforced

1 by humane officers as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 351, if authorized to do so by the  
2 municipality.

3 \* \* \*

4 (30) To regulate by means of an ordinance adopted pursuant to chapter  
5 59 of this title regarding the fencing of livestock and the control of livestock  
6 running at large. As used in this subdivision:

7 (A) “Livestock” has the same meaning as in 6 V.S.A. § 761.

8 (B) “Livestock running at large” means any livestock found or being  
9 on any public land or public way, or land belonging to a person other than the  
10 owner of the livestock, without the landowner’s permission.

11 (C) “Public way” has the same meaning as in section 2501a of this  
12 title.

13 Sec. 11. 20 V.S.A. chapter 191, subchapter 1 is amended to read:

14 Subchapter 1. General Provisions

15 § 3341. CATTLE, HORSES, SHEEP, GOATS, OR SWINE

16 A person who knowingly permits cattle, horses, sheep, goats, or swine to  
17 run at large in a public highway or yard belonging to a public building without  
18 the consent of the selectboard shall be fined by a law enforcement officer or by  
19 a municipal officer or employee not more than ~~\$10.00~~ \$100.00 nor less than  
20 ~~\$3.00~~ \$50.00 for each animal running at large.

1 § 3342. PUBLIC PARK, COMMON, OR GREEN

2 A person who permits cattle, horses, sheep, goats, or swine to run at large in  
3 a public park, common, or green without the consent of the selectboard shall be  
4 fined by a law enforcement officer or by a municipal officer or employee not  
5 more than ~~\$25.00~~ \$100.00 nor less than ~~\$5.00~~ \$50.00 for each animal running  
6 at large.

7 § 3343. YARD OF TOWNHOUSE, CHURCH, OR SCHOOLHOUSE

8 A person who turns cattle, horses, sheep, goats, or swine into a yard  
9 belonging to a townhouse, church, or schoolhouse, which is properly enclosed,  
10 or knowingly permits them to run in such a yard, shall be fined by a law  
11 enforcement officer or by a municipal officer or employee not more than  
12 ~~\$10.00~~ \$100.00 nor less than ~~\$3.00~~ \$50.00 for each animal running at large.

13 § 3344. BURIAL GROUND

14 A person who knowingly turns cattle, horses, sheep, goats, or swine into a  
15 properly enclosed burial ground, or who knowingly permits them to run within  
16 a properly enclosed burial ground, shall be fined ~~\$25.00~~ by a law enforcement  
17 officer or by a municipal officer or employee not more than \$100.00 nor less  
18 than \$50.00 for each animal running at large.

19 § 3345. LAND OR PREMISES OF ANOTHER

20 A person who knowingly permits ~~his or her~~ the person's cattle, horses,  
21 sheep, goats, swine, or domestic fowls to go upon the lands or premises of

1 another, after the latter has given the owner notice thereof, shall be fined by a  
2 law enforcement officer or by a municipal officer or employee not more than  
3 ~~\$10.00~~ \$100.00 nor less than ~~\$2.00~~ \$50.00 for each animal running at large.

4 Such person shall also be liable for the damages suffered, which may be  
5 recovered in a civil action.

6 § 3346. BULLS

7 The owner or keeper of a bull may be fined by a law enforcement officer or  
8 by a municipal officer or employee not more than \$100.00 nor less than \$50.00  
9 if such bull is more than nine months old and found unattended outside the  
10 premises owned or occupied by the owner or keeper of such bull and shall be  
11 liable to a party damaged by such bull while outside the premises of such  
12 owner or keeper. The damages may be recovered in a civil action.

13 \* \* \*

14 \* \* \* Effective Date \* \* \*

15 Sec. 12. EFFECTIVE DATE

16 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

17

18

19

1 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

2

\_\_\_\_\_

3

Senator \_\_\_\_\_

4

FOR THE COMMITTEE