

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Agriculture to which was referred Senate Bill No. 301  
3 entitled “An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects” respectfully  
4 reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the bill be  
5 amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu  
6 thereof the following:

7 \* \* \* Agricultural Water Quality \* \* \*

8 Sec. 1. 6 V.S.A. § 4831 is amended to read:

9 § 4831. VERMONT SEEDING AND FILTER STRIP PROGRAM

10 (a) The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets is authorized to  
11 develop a Vermont Critical Source Area Seeding and Filter Strip Program in  
12 addition to the federal Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program in order to  
13 compensate farmers for establishing and maintaining harvestable perennial  
14 vegetative grassed waterways and filter strips on agricultural cropland  
15 perpendicular and adjacent to the surface waters of the State, including ditches.  
16 Eligible acreage ~~would include~~ includes annually tilled cropland or a portion of  
17 cropland currently cropped as hay ~~that will not be rotated into an annual crop~~  
18 ~~for a 10-year period of time~~. Acreage that is currently managed as hay shall  
19 have a prior history of rotation as corn or other annual commodity crop.

1 (b) Incentive payments from the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets  
2 shall be made at the outset of a ~~10-year~~ grant agreement to establish or  
3 maintain the acreage as harvestable grassed waterway or filter strip.

4 (c) The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets may establish by  
5 procedure financial and technical criteria for the implementation and operation  
6 of the Vermont Critical Source Area Seeding and Filter Strip Program.

7 (d) Land enrolled in the Vermont agricultural buffer program shall be  
8 considered to be in “active use” as that term is defined in 32 V.S.A.  
9 § 3752(15).

10 \* \* \* Agricultural Warehouses \* \* \*

11 Sec. 2. 6 V.S.A. chapter 67 is amended to read:

12 CHAPTER 67. PUBLIC WAREHOUSES THAT STORE FARM  
13 PRODUCTS

14 § 891. LICENSE

15 Excepting frozen food locker plants, any person, as defined in 9A V.S.A.  
16 §§ 1-201 and 7-102, who stores ~~milk, cream, butter, cheese, eggs, meat,~~  
17 ~~poultry, and fruit~~ eggs, as that term is defined in chapter 27 of this title, or  
18 produce, as that term is defined in section 851 of this title, for hire in quantities  
19 of 1,000 pounds or more ~~of any commodity~~ shall first be licensed by the  
20 Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets. Each separate place of business  
21 shall be licensed.

1 § 892. REQUIREMENTS

2 Before licensing ~~such places~~ a place of business under this chapter, the  
3 Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall ~~satisfy himself or herself~~ be  
4 satisfied as to the condition of the building, sanitation, refrigeration, and the  
5 general safety of the stored goods under the rules and requirements that ~~he or~~  
6 ~~she~~ the Secretary may deem proper.

7 § 893. APPLICATION FORMS; FEE

8 The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall furnish necessary  
9 application forms. The annual license date shall be ~~April 1~~ January 1. The  
10 annual license fee shall be \$125.00.

11 Sec. 3. 6 V.S.A. § 2672(5) is amended to read:

12 (5) “Milk handler” or “handler” is a person, firm, unincorporated  
13 association, or corporation engaged in the business of buying, selling,  
14 assembling, packaging, storing, or processing milk or other dairy products for  
15 sale within the State of Vermont or outside the State. “Milk handler” or  
16 “handler” does not mean a milk producer.

17 Sec. 4. 6 V.S.A. § 2721 is amended to read:

18 § 2721. HANDLERS’ LICENSES

19 (a) The Secretary may classify and issue licenses to milk handlers to carry  
20 on dairy product handling businesses, including the purchase, distribution,  
21 storage, or sale of milk or milk products, processing or manufacturing of milk

1 or milk products, including the pasteurization of frozen dessert mixes,  
2 transport of milk and milk products, bargaining and collecting for the sale of  
3 milk and milk products, and dealing in or brokering milk or milk products.

4 (b) A milk handler shall not transact business in the State unless the milk  
5 handler secures and holds a handler's license from the Secretary. The license  
6 shall terminate September 1 each year and shall be procured by August 15 of  
7 each year. The Secretary shall furnish all forms for applications, licenses, and  
8 bonds. At the time the application is delivered to the Secretary, the milk  
9 handler shall pay a license application fee of \$50.00 for an initial application  
10 and a license fee based on the following table. For a renewal application, only  
11 the fee in the table applies. Out-of-state firms shall use the company's highest  
12 total pounds of milk or dairy products bought, sold, packaged, assembled,  
13 transported, stored, or processed per production day.

14 Pounds of milk or dairy products bought, sold, 15 packaged, assembled, transported, <u>stored</u> , or 16 processed per production day:	17 License 18 handling 19 fee
17 500 pounds or less	\$ 60.00
18 Over 500 but less than 10,000 pounds	\$ 200.00
19 10,000 to 50,000 pounds	\$ 350.00
20 Over 50,000 but less than 100,000 pounds	\$ 750.00
21 100,000 to 500,000 pounds	\$1,000.00

1	Over 500,000 pounds	\$1,500.00
2	Processor fee per pasteurizer	\$ 75.00

3 (c) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, the license handling fees  
4 only for the transportation of bulk milk shall be capped at \$750.00 per year,  
5 and the license handling fees for milk producers who exclusively transport  
6 their own bulk milk shall be capped at \$25.00 per year.

7 Sec. 5. 6 V.S.A. § 3302(36) is amended to read:

8 (36) “Public ~~warehouseman~~ warehouse operator” means any person who  
9 acts as a temporary custodian of meat, meat food product, or poultry product  
10 stored in that person’s warehouse for a fee.

11 Sec. 6. 6 V.S.A. § 3306 is amended to read:

12 § 3306. LICENSING

13 (a) No person shall engage in intrastate commerce in the business of  
14 buying, selling, preparing, processing, packing, storing, transporting, or  
15 otherwise handling meat, meat food products, or poultry products, unless that  
16 person holds a valid license issued under this chapter. Categories of licensure  
17 shall include commercial slaughterers; custom slaughterers; commercial  
18 processors; custom processors; wholesale distributors; retail vendors; meat and  
19 poultry product brokers; renderers; public warehouse operators; animal food  
20 manufacturers; handlers of dead, dying, disabled, or diseased animals; and any  
21 other category that the Secretary may by rule establish.

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\* \* \*

(d) The annual fee for a license for a retail vendor is \$15.00 for vendors without meat processing operations, \$50.00 for vendors with meat processing space of less than 300 square feet or meat display space of less than 20 linear feet, and \$100.00 for vendors with 300 or more square feet of meat processing space or 20 or more linear feet of meat display space. Fees collected under this section shall be deposited in a special fund managed pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5 and shall be available to the Agency to offset the cost of administering chapter 204 of this title. For all other plants, establishments, and related businesses listed under subsection (a) of this section, ~~except for a public warehouse licensed under chapter 67 of this title,~~ the annual license fee shall be \$150.00.

\* \* \*

\* \* \* Livestock Dealers \* \* \*

Sec. 7. 6 V.S.A. § 761 is amended to read:

§ 761. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

- (1) “Camelids” has the same meaning as in section 1151 of this title.
- (2) “Domestic deer” has the same meaning as in section 1151 of this title.
- (3) “Equines” has the same meaning as in section 1151 of this title.

1           (4) “Livestock” means cattle, ~~horses~~ equines, sheep, swine, goats,  
2           camelids, ~~fallow deer, red deer, reindeer, and domestic deer~~, American bison,  
3           and any other domestic animal that the Secretary deems livestock for the  
4           purposes of this chapter.

5           (2)(5) “Livestock dealer” means a person who, on the person’s own  
6           account or for commission, goes from place to place buying, selling, or  
7           transporting livestock either directly or through online or other remote  
8           transaction, or who operates a livestock auction or sales ring, provided that  
9           “livestock dealer” shall not mean:

10           (A) a federal agency, including any department, division, or authority  
11           within the agency;

12           (B) a nonprofit association approved by the Secretary; or

13           (C) a person who engages in “farming,” as that term is defined in  
14           10 V.S.A. § 6001(22), and who raises, feeds, or manages livestock as part of a  
15           farming operation when that person is buying, selling, or transporting livestock  
16           for the person’s farm.

17           (3)(6) “Packer” means a ~~livestock dealer~~ person who is solely involved  
18           in the purchase of livestock for purpose of slaughter at ~~his or her~~ the person’s  
19           own slaughter facility.

20           (4)(7) “Person” means any individual, partnership, unincorporated  
21           association, or corporation.

1           ~~(5)(8)~~ “Transporter” means a ~~livestock dealer who limits his or her~~  
2           ~~activity to transporting~~ person who transports livestock for remuneration and  
3           ~~who does not buy or sell livestock~~. A transporter ~~cannot buy or sell livestock~~  
4           ~~and~~ is not required to be bonded.

5           Sec. 8. 6 V.S.A. § 762(a) is amended to read:

6           (a) A person shall not carry on the business of a livestock dealer, packer, or  
7           transporter without first obtaining a license from the Secretary of Agriculture,  
8           Food and Markets. Before the issuance of a each applicable license, a person  
9           shall file an application on Agency-provided forms with the Secretary ~~an~~  
10          ~~application for a license on forms provided by the Agency~~. Each application  
11          shall be accompanied by a fee of \$175.00 for livestock dealers and packers and  
12          \$100.00 for livestock transporters.

13                   \* \* \* Contagious Diseases and Animal Movement \* \* \*

14          Sec. 9. 6 V.S.A. § 1151 is amended to read:

15          § 1151. DEFINITIONS

16                  As used in this part:

17                  (1) “Accredited veterinarian” means a veterinarian approved by the U.S.  
18          Department of Agriculture and the State Veterinarian to perform functions  
19          specified by cooperative state-federal disease control programs.

20                  (2) “Animal” or “domestic animal” means cattle, sheep, goats, equines,  
21          domestic deer, American bison, swine, poultry, ~~pheasant, Chukar partridge,~~



1 ~~Coturnix quail~~, psittacine birds, domestic ferrets, camelids, ratites (ostriches,  
2 rheas, and emus), ~~and~~ water buffalo, and any other animals that the Secretary  
3 deems a domestic animal for the purposes of this chapter. ~~The term shall~~  
4 ~~include cultured fish propagated by commercial fish farms.~~ Before  
5 determining that an unlisted species is a “domestic animal,” the Secretary shall  
6 consult with the Secretary of Natural Resources.

7 \* \* \*

8 (7) ~~“Deer”~~ “Domestic deer” means any member of the family cervidae  
9 except for white-tailed deer and moose.

10 (8) “Domestic fowl” or “poultry” means all domesticated birds of all  
11 ages that ~~may be used~~ are edible as human food, or that produce eggs that ~~may~~  
12 ~~be used~~ are edible as human food, excluding ~~those birds protected~~ wildlife as  
13 defined by 10 V.S.A. ~~part 4~~ § 4001.

14 (9) ~~“Equine animal” means~~ “Equines” mean any member of the family  
15 equidae, including horses, ponies, mules, asses, and zebras.

16 (10) ~~“Fallow deer” means domesticated deer of the genus Dama, species~~  
17 ~~dama.~~

18 (11) ~~“Red deer” means domesticated deer of the family cervidae,~~  
19 ~~subfamily cervidae, genus Cervus, species elaphus.~~

20 (12)(11) “Reactor” means an animal that tests positive to any official  
21 test required under this chapter.

1           ~~(13)~~(12) “Reportable disease” means any disease included in the  
2 National List of Reportable Animal Diseases and any disease required by the  
3 Secretary by rule to be reportable.

4           ~~(14)~~(13) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and  
5 Markets or designee.

6 Sec. 10. 6 V.S.A. § 1153 is amended to read:

7 § 1153. RULES

8           (a) The Secretary shall adopt rules necessary for the discovery, control, and  
9 eradication of contagious diseases and for the slaughter, disposal, quarantine,  
10 vaccination, and transportation of animals found to be diseased or exposed to a  
11 contagious disease. The Secretary may also adopt rules requiring the  
12 disinfection and sanitation of real estate, buildings, vehicles, containers, and  
13 equipment that have been associated with diseased livestock.

14           (b) The Secretary shall adopt rules establishing fencing and transportation  
15 requirements for domestic deer.

16           (c) The Secretary shall adopt rules necessary for the inventory, registration,  
17 tracking, and testing of domestic deer.

18 Sec. 11. 6 V.S.A. § 1165 is amended to read:

19 § 1165. TESTING OF CAPTIVE DEER

20           (a) Definitions. As used in this section:

1           (1) “Captive deer operation” means a place where domestic deer are  
2 privately or publicly maintained, in an artificial manner, or held for economic  
3 or other purposes within a perimeter fence or confined space.

4           (2) “Chronic wasting disease” or “CWD” means a transmissible  
5 spongiform encephalopathy.

6           (b) Testing. A person operating a captive deer operation under the  
7 jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall inform the  
8 Secretary when a captive deer in ~~his or her~~ the person’s control dies or is sent  
9 to slaughter. The person operating the captive deer operation shall make the  
10 carcass of a deceased or slaughtered animal available to the Secretary for  
11 testing for CWD.

12           (c) Cost. The cost of CWD testing required under this section shall be  
13 assessed to the person operating the captive deer operation from which the  
14 tested captive deer originated.

15                   \* \* \* Pesticides; Mosquito Control; Rodenticides \* \* \*

16           Sec. 12. 6 V.S.A. § 1083 is amended to read:

17           § 1083. DUTIES OF SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND  
18                   MARKETS; AUTHORITY OF LANDOWNERS TO USE  
19                   MOSQUITO CONTROLS

20           (a) The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets ~~shall~~ may personally or  
21 through the Secretary’s duly authorized agents:

1           (1) Survey swamps or other sections within the State suspected of being  
2 mosquito or other biting arthropod breeding areas.

3           (2) Map each section so surveyed, indicate all mosquito or other biting  
4 arthropod breeding places and determine methods best adapted for mosquito or  
5 other biting arthropod abatement in the areas by drainage, ~~oiling~~ habitat  
6 modification, or other means.

7           (3) Investigate the mosquito or other biting arthropod life history and  
8 habits and determine the species present within the areas, and make any other  
9 studies ~~he or she~~ the Secretary deems necessary to provide useful information  
10 in mosquito or other biting arthropod abatement.

11           (4) Make the results of the Secretary's surveys, investigations, and  
12 studies available to the Department of Health, or relevant selectboard  
13 members, or mayors of towns or cities, as the case may be, in which work was  
14 done; and shall do so also upon request, shall make those results available to  
15 any organizations, public or private, or individuals interested in mosquito or  
16 other biting arthropod ~~control~~ surveillance work.

17           (5) Issue or deny permits to any person for the use of larvicides or  
18 pupacides for mosquito control in the waters of the State pursuant to  
19 procedures adopted under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25. Such procedures shall include  
20 provisions regarding an opportunity for public review and comment on permit  
21 applications. Persons applying for a permit shall apply on a form provided by

1 the Agency. ~~The Secretary shall seek the advice of the Agricultural Innovation~~  
2 ~~Board when designating acceptable control products and methods for their use~~  
3 ~~and when adopting or amending procedures for implementing this subsection.~~

4 Before issuing a permit under this subsection, the Secretary shall find, after  
5 consultation with the Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources, that there  
6 is acceptable risk to the nontarget environment and that there is negligible risk  
7 to public health.

8 (6) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (5) of this subsection,  
9 when the Commissioner of Health has determined that available information  
10 suggests that an imminent risk to public health exists as a result of a potential  
11 outbreak of West Nile Virus or other serious illness for which mosquitoes are  
12 vectors, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets may issue permits for  
13 the use of larvicides or pupacides for mosquito control without prior public  
14 notice or comment.

15 (b) Notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary, a landowner  
16 may use ~~biological larvicides or pupacides on his or her own land~~ a properly  
17 registered mosquito control pesticide for mosquito control on the landowner's  
18 land without obtaining a permit, provided that the ~~biological larvicide or~~  
19 ~~pupacide is designated~~ Secretary designates it as an acceptable control product  
20 for this purpose ~~by the Secretary~~ and the landowner complies with all  
21 requirements on the label of the product.

1 Sec. 13. 6 V.S.A. § 1084 is amended to read:

2 § 1084. ~~ENGINEERS OR TECHNICIANS EMPLOYEES~~; EQUIPMENT;  
3 ENTRY ON LANDS

4 The Secretary may employ one or more trained ~~mosquito control engineers~~  
5 ~~or technicians~~ persons to carry out provisions of section 1083 of this title and  
6 procure such equipment as is necessary. The Secretary ~~and his or her~~ or duly  
7 authorized agents of the Secretary may enter upon any lands in the State  
8 making the aforementioned surveys, investigations, and studies.

9 Sec. 14. 6 V.S.A. § 1085 is amended to read:

10 § 1085. MOSQUITO CONTROL GRANT PROGRAM

11 (a) A Mosquito Control District formed pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapter 121  
12 may apply, in a manner prescribed by the Secretary, in writing to the Secretary  
13 of Agriculture, Food and Markets for a State assistance grant for mosquito  
14 control activities.

15 (b) After submission of an application under subsection (a) of this section,  
16 the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets may award a grant of  
17 75 percent or less of the project costs for the purchase and application of  
18 larvicide and the costs associated with required larval survey activities within a  
19 Mosquito Control District. The Mosquito Control District may provide  
20 25 percent of the project costs through in-kind larvicide services or the  
21 purchase of capital equipment used for larval management activities. At the

1 Secretary’s discretion, costs associated with capital equipment that may be  
2 required for larval ~~control~~ management programs within a Mosquito Control  
3 District may be eligible for grant awards up to 75 percent of the total  
4 equipment costs.

5 \* \* \*

6 (e) Larvicide application funded in part under this section shall occur only  
7 after the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets approves treatment as  
8 warranted within a Mosquito Control District. The approval of the Secretary  
9 shall be based upon a biological assessment of mosquito larvae and pupae  
10 populations by a ~~technician~~ person trained and approved by the Agency of  
11 Agriculture, Food and Markets.

12 \* \* \*

13 **Sec. 15. 6 V.S.A. § 911 is amended to read:**

14 **§ 911. DEFINITIONS**

15 **As used in this chapter:**

16 \* \* \*

17 (4) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

18 (5) “Economic poison” means:

19 (A) any substance produced, distributed, or used for preventing,

20 destroying, or repelling any insects, rodents, nematodes, fungi, weeds, or other

1 forms of plant or animal life or viruses, except viruses on or in living humans  
2 or other animals, that the Secretary shall declare to be a pest; or

3 (B) any substance produced, distributed, or used as a plant regulator,  
4 defoliant, or desiccant.

5 \* \* \*

6 (18) “Rodenticide” means any substance or mixture of substances  
7 intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating rodents or any  
8 other vertebrate animal that the Secretary shall declare to be a pest.

9 \* \* \*

10 (29) “Second-generation anticoagulant rodenticide” means any  
11 rodenticide containing any one of the following active ingredients:  
12 brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difenacoum, or difethialone.

13 Sec. 16. 6 V.S.A. § 918(g) is added to read:

14 (g) The Secretary shall register as a restricted use pesticide any second-  
15 generation anticoagulant rodenticide that is distributed, sold, sold into, or  
16 offered for sale within the State or delivered for transportation or transported in  
17 intrastate commerce or between points within this State through any point  
18 outside this State.





1 (1) “Agricultural facility” means land and rights in land, buildings,  
2 structures, machinery, and equipment that is used for, or will be used for  
3 producing, processing, preparing, packaging, storing, distributing, marketing,  
4 or transporting agricultural or forest products that have been ~~primarily~~ at least  
5 partially produced in this State, and working capital reasonably required to  
6 operate an agricultural facility.

7 \* \* \*

8 (4) “Farm ownership loan” means a loan to acquire or enlarge a farm or  
9 agricultural facility, to make capital improvements including construction,  
10 purchase, and improvement of farm and agricultural facility buildings, farm  
11 worker housing, or farmer housing that can be made fixtures to the real estate,  
12 to promote soil and water conservation and protection or provide housing, and  
13 to refinance indebtedness incurred for farm ownership or operating loan  
14 purposes, or both.

15 \* \* \*

16 (8) “Farm operation” ~~shall mean~~ means the cultivation of land or other  
17 uses of land for the production of food, fiber, horticultural, silvicultural,  
18 orchard, maple syrup, Christmas trees, forest products, or forest crops; the  
19 raising, boarding, and training of equines, and the raising of livestock; or any  
20 combination of the foregoing activities. “Farm operation” also means the  
21 storage, preparation, retail sale, and transportation of agricultural or forest

1 commodities accessory to the cultivation or use of such land. “Farm  
2 operation” also ~~shall mean~~ means the operation of an agritourism business on a  
3 farm subject to regulation under the Required Agricultural Practices. “Farm  
4 operation” also means a business that provides specialty services to farmers,  
5 such as foresters, farriers, hoof trimmers, or large animal veterinarians  
6 operating mobile units.

7 (9) “Forest products business” means a ~~Vermont~~ an enterprise that is  
8 primarily engaged in managing, harvesting, trucking, processing,  
9 manufacturing, crafting, or distributing forest products at least partially derived  
10 from Vermont forests.

11 \* \* \*

12 (15) “Resident” means a ~~person who is or will be domiciled in this State~~  
13 ~~as evidenced by an intent to maintain a principal dwelling place in the State~~  
14 ~~indefinitely and to return there if temporarily absent, coupled with an act or~~  
15 ~~acts consistent with that intent, including the filing of a Vermont income tax~~  
16 ~~return within 18 months of the application for a loan under this chapter. In the~~  
17 ~~case of a limited liability company, partnership, corporation, or other business~~  
18 ~~entity, resident means a business entity formed under the laws of Vermont, the~~  
19 ~~majority of which is owned and operated by Vermont residents who are natural~~  
20 ~~persons.~~ [Repealed.]



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

Sec. 20. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Senator \_\_\_\_\_

FOR THE COMMITTEE