

1 H.62

2 Introduced by Representatives Winters of Williamstown, Ainsworth of  
3 Royalton, Baker of West Rutland, Botzow of Pownal, Branagan  
4 of Georgia, Conquest of Newbury, Fisher of Lincoln, Koch of  
5 Barre Town, Lawrence of Lyndon, Lewis of Derby, Masland of  
6 Thetford, McAllister of Highgate, McFaun of Barre Town,  
7 Savage of Swanton, Taylor of Barre City and Zuckerman of  
8 Burlington

9 Referred to Committee on

10 Date:

11 Subject: Agriculture; working farm dogs; exemption from municipal  
12 regulation

13 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to exempt a working farm dog from  
14 municipal ordinances regulating dogs running at large or creating a nuisance if  
15 the dog is running at large or barking while carrying out its farm-related duties.

16 An act relating to an exemption from municipal dog-control ordinances for  
17 working farm dogs

18 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

1 Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. § 3549 is amended to read:

2 § 3549. DOMESTIC PETS OR WOLF-HYBRIDS, REGULATION BY  
3 TOWNS

4 The legislative body of a city or town by ordinance may regulate the  
5 keeping, leashing, muzzling, restraint, impoundment, and destruction of  
6 domestic pets or wolf-hybrids and their running at large, except for the control  
7 of working farm dogs as provided in section 3552 of this title.

8 Sec. 2. 20 V.S.A. § 3552 is added to read:

9 § 3552. EXEMPTION; WORKING FARM DOGS

10 (a) In this section, “working farm dog” means a dog or wolf-hybrid which  
11 is trained and used for farm-related activities such as herding, protecting, or  
12 guarding a crop or livestock.

13 (b) A person who is raising a crop or livestock may allow a working farm  
14 dog to run at large on property on which the person is raising the crop or  
15 livestock and on other land, provided that the dog has entered the land for the  
16 purpose of herding back onto the farmed land livestock which has escaped.

17 (c) A working farm dog which is barking in order to carry out its  
18 farm-related duties shall not be found to be a nuisance due to the barking  
19 behavior under a municipal ordinance adopted under 24 V.S.A. chapter 59.