

## SENATE PROPOSAL OF AMENDMENT

### H. 767

An act relating to the livestock care standards advisory council.

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 6 V.S.A. chapter 64 is added to read:

#### CHAPTER 64. LIVESTOCK CARE STANDARDS

##### ADVISORY COUNCIL

##### § 791. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Agency" means the agency of agriculture, food and markets.
- (2) "Council" means the livestock care standards advisory council.
- (3) "Livestock" means cattle, calves, sheep, swine, horses, mules, goats, fallow deer, American bison, poultry, and any other animal that can or may be used in and for the preparation of meat, fiber, or poultry products.
- (4) "Secretary" means the secretary of agriculture, food and markets.

##### § 792. ESTABLISHMENT OF LIVESTOCK CARE STANDARDS ADVISORY COUNCIL

(a) There is established a livestock care standards advisory council for the purposes of evaluating the laws of the state and of providing policy recommendations regarding the care, handling, and well-being of livestock in the state. The livestock care standards advisory council shall be composed of the following members, all of whom shall be residents of Vermont:

- (1) The secretary of agriculture, food and markets or his or her designee, who shall serve as the chair of the council.
- (2) The state veterinarian.
- (3) The following four members appointed by the governor:
  - (A) A person with knowledge of food safety and food safety regulation in the state who is a representative of an agricultural department of a Vermont college or university.
  - (B) A representative of the Vermont slaughter industry.
  - (C) A representative of the Vermont livestock dealer, hauler, or auction industry.
  - (D) A representative of a local humane society or organization registered with the agency and organized under state law.

(4) The following two members appointed by the committee on committees:

(A) A Vermont resident with experience or expertise in equine husbandry practices or equine management.

(B) A Vermont licensed livestock or poultry veterinarian.

(5) The following two members appointed by the speaker of the house:

(A) An enforcement officer, as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4, or an animal control officer elected, appointed, or employed by a municipality, provided that the enforcement officer or animal control officer has experience or expertise in investigations regarding livestock care and well-being and provided that no animal control officer receiving compensation from a national humane society or organization may be appointed under this subdivision.

(B) An operator of a Vermont dairy farm.

(b) Members of the board shall be appointed for staggered terms of three years. Except for the chair and the state veterinarian, no member of the council may serve for more than six consecutive years.

(c) With the concurrence of the chair, the council may use the services and staff of the agency in the performance of its duties.

§ 793. POWERS AND DUTIES OF LIVESTOCK CARE STANDARDS ADVISORY COUNCIL

(a) The council shall:

(1) Review and evaluate the laws and rules of the state applicable to the care and handling of livestock. In conducting the evaluation required by this section, the council shall consider the following:

(A) agricultural best management practices;

(B) biosecurity and disease prevention;

(C) animal morbidity and mortality data;

(D) food safety practices;

(E) the protection of local and affordable food supplies for consumers;

(F) the overall health and welfare of livestock species; and

(G) humane transport and slaughter practices.

(2) Submit policy recommendations to the secretary on any of the subject matter set forth under subdivision (1) of this subsection. A copy of the policy recommendations submitted to the secretary shall be provided to the

house and senate committees on agriculture. Recommendations may be in the form of proposed legislation.

(3) Meet at least annually and at such other times as the chair determines to be necessary.

(b) The council may engage in education and outreach activities related to the laws and regulations for the care and handling of livestock. The council may accept funds from public or private sources in compliance with 32 V.S.A. § 5.

Sec. 1a. TRAINING OF SLAUGHTERHOUSE EMPLOYEES;  
APPROPRIATIONS

In addition to any other funds appropriated to the agency of agriculture, food and markets in fiscal year 2011, there is transferred to the agency of agriculture, food and markets up to \$50,000.00 from the funds appropriated to the agency of commerce and community development's Vermont training program for use by the agency of agriculture, food and markets for training employees of Vermont-licensed slaughterhouses regarding the humane treatment of animals that is required under state and federal law.

Sec. 2. 6 V.S.A. § 3134 is amended to read:

§ 3134. PENALTY

(a) A person who violates this chapter shall be fined not more than \$100.00 ~~not less than \$50.00~~ \$5,000.00 for the first violation, not more than \$10,000.00 for the second violation, and not more than \$25,000.00 for the third violation, or imprisoned not more than ~~90 days~~ two years, or both. In addition to the penalty provided above, the secretary may seek an injunction against a slaughterer, packer, or stockyard operator who engages in practices which are prohibited by section 3132 of this title, by application to the superior court for the county in which such slaughterer, packer or stockyard operator resides, or where such violations occur. The secretary may also take any action authorized under chapter 1 of this title.

(b) The secretary shall permanently revoke the commercial operating license of any person who is found to be in violation of this chapter more than two times, and the secretary shall not relicense any business which includes as any director or owner of the business any director or owner of a business whose license has been permanently revoked.

(c) In addition to the penalties set forth in subsection (a) of this section, the secretary shall require a person who violates this chapter to install video monitoring equipment in all areas in which livestock is handled. The video equipment shall record continuously while live livestock are handled. As an alternative to video monitoring, a live video stream accessible by the secretary may be provided with prior approval of the secretary. The video tapes or

recording files of the video monitoring required by this subsection shall be retained by the facility for 90 days and shall be readily retrievable and available for inspection by the secretary. After the retention period of 90 days has expired, the video tapes or recording files of the live video stream shall be submitted to the secretary by the 15th of the following month, on a monthly basis.

(d) The secretary shall refer a violation of this chapter to the attorney general or the state's attorney for prosecution.

#### Sec. 3. SUNSET

Sec. 1 of this act shall sunset on January 15, 2013, by which date any final recommendations to the general assembly and the secretary of agriculture, food and markets shall be submitted by the advisory council.

#### Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect upon passage.