

1 H.9

2 Introduced by Representative Deen of Westminster

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Agriculture; agricultural practices; composting

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to require the agency of agriculture,
7 food and markets to amend the accepted agricultural practices in order to
8 include practices for commercial composting on farms.

9 An act relating to providing that commercial composting on farms is an
10 accepted agricultural practice

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

12 Sec. 1. 6 V.S.A. § 4810 is amended to read:

13 § 4810. AUTHORITY; COOPERATION; COORDINATION

14 (a) Agricultural land use practices. In accordance with 10 V.S.A.
15 § 1259(i), the secretary shall adopt by rule, pursuant to chapter 25 of Title 3,
16 and shall implement and enforce agricultural land use practices in order to
17 reduce the amount of agricultural pollutants entering the waters of the state.
18 These agricultural land use practices shall be created in two categories,
19 pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection.

1 (1) "Accepted Agricultural Practices" (AAPs) shall be standards to be
2 followed in conducting agricultural activities in this state. These standards
3 shall address activities which have a potential for causing pollutants to enter
4 the groundwater and waters of the state, including dairy and other livestock
5 operations plus all forms of crop and nursery operations and on-farm or
6 agricultural fairground, registered pursuant to ~~section 20 V.S.A. § 3902 of Title~~
7 20, livestock and poultry slaughter and processing activities, and commercial
8 composting operations on farms. The AAPs shall include, as well as promote
9 and encourage, practices for farmers in preventing pollutants from entering the
10 groundwater and waters of the state when engaged in, but not limited to,
11 animal waste management and disposal, soil amendment applications, plant
12 fertilization, and pest and weed control. Persons engaged in farming, as
13 defined in ~~section 10 V.S.A. § 6001 of Title 10,~~ who follow these practices
14 shall be presumed to be in compliance with water quality standards. AAPs
15 shall be practical and cost effective to implement. The AAPs for groundwater
16 shall include a process under which the agency shall receive, investigate, and
17 respond to a complaint that a farm has contaminated the drinking water or
18 groundwater of a property owner. The AAPs for commercial composting on
19 farms shall include practices for managing odor, dust, noise, and vectors.

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1 (c) As used in this section, “commercial composting on farms” means
2 composting that meets the criteria of 10 V.S.A. § 6001(3)(D)(vii).

3 Sec. 2. AMENDMENTS TO ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

4 On or before June 1, 2012, the agency of agriculture, food and markets shall
5 amend by rule the accepted agricultural practices in order to address
6 commercial composting on farms as required by 6 V.S.A. § 4810.

7 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

8 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.