

1 S.232

2 Introduced by Senator Galbraith

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Agriculture; control of pesticides; neonicotinoids

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to ban the use,
7 sale, or application of neonicotinoid pesticides.

8 An act relating to the use of neonicotinoid pesticides

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

10 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

11 The General Assembly finds that:

12 (1) Bumblebees, native bees, and honey bees pollinate native plants and
13 crops in Vermont and, therefore, are vital to Vermont's ecology and
14 agriculture.

15 (2) Bee populations are declining sharply in Vermont and nationwide.
16 Several species of bumblebees are now extinct in Vermont, including the
17 rusty-patched bumblebee, the Ashton cuckoo bumblebee, and the American
18 bumblebee. The yellow-banded bumblebee is seriously imperiled in Vermont
19 and urgent action is required to prevent it from becoming extinct.

1 (3) The use of neonicotinoid pesticides, a relatively new class of
2 pesticides, contributes significantly to the decline of bee populations in
3 Vermont and elsewhere.

4 (4) Fifteen countries have imposed a moratorium on the use of
5 neonicotinoids.

6 (5) In order to help preserve Vermont's bee populations and,
7 consequently, its native plant species, and to maintain the essential role of bees
8 as pollinators of crops in Vermont, the sale and use of neonicotinoid pesticides
9 should be banned in Vermont.

10 Sec. 2. 6 V.S.A. § 1113 is added to read:

11 § 1113. USE AND SALE OF NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDES

12 (a) Beginning on July 1, 2014, no person shall sell, use, or apply the
13 pesticide imidacloprid, clothianiden, thiamethoxam, donotafuran, or any other
14 member of the nitro group of neonicotinoid pesticides except when the
15 Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets determines that a threat to
16 Vermont crops exists that requires the use of a neonicotinoid pesticide and no
17 other class of pesticides would be effective in addressing the threat.

18 (b) When the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets determines that a
19 threat to Vermont crops exists, he or she shall prescribe the type of pesticide
20 that may be used, the conditions for use, and the period for which it may be
21 used, provided that no pesticide authorized to address a threat to Vermont

1 crops under this section shall be authorized for use for more than eight

2 succeeding months.

3 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on passage.