

Bills Passed out of the House Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency and Forestry

| Bill | Summary |
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| H.603 An act relating to the poultry slaughter exception to inspection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows persons exempt from inspection of poultry slaughter to sell parts of an exempt, slaughtered bird. |
| H.614 An act relating to land improvement fraud and timber trespass | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes the crime of land improvement fraud, including fraudulent forestry operations. Requires a person to post a surety bond or letter of credit with the Attorney General if they knowingly commit multiple violations of land improvement fraud, knowingly or recklessly commit multiple violations of timber trespass, or is subject to two or more unpaid timber trespass civil judgements |
| H.624 An act relating to providing financial assistance to the forest economy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DFPR shall as a pilot expand the Water Quality Assistance Program, to provide financial assistance to logging contractors to ensure implementation of water quality protection and climate adaptation practices. In addition to other funds appropriated to the DFPR in FY 2025, \$45,000.00 GF is appropriated to DFPR to provide the financial assistance for logger safety and master logger certification pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 2622c. |
| H.626 An act relating to animal welfare | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes an Animal Welfare Division at Department of Public Safety. Division will initially be one person, a Director. The Director shall develop a plan for coordinated enforcement of animal welfare laws in the State. The rabies surcharge is increase from \$1.00 to \$2.00. The additional dollar will be deposited into Animal Welfare Fund. |
| H.664 An act relating to designating a State Mushroom | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designates the <i>Heridium Americanum</i>, commonly known as the bear's head tooth mushroom, as the State Mushroom |
| H.673 An act relating to Vermont's outdoor recreation economy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) shall conduct the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Impact Study. In FY 2025, the sum of \$100,000 GF is appropriated to DFPR for one full-time program support specialist to staff the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council. In FY 2025, \$50,000.00 GF is appropriated to DFPR for the purpose of hiring a contractor, in partnership with Vermont Trails and Greenways Council to develop of a set of universal trail best management practices. |
| H.706 An act relating to banning the use of neonicotinoid pesticides | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibits/regulates certain uses of neonicotinoid pesticides beginning July 1, 2025. AAFM may issue exemptions from the prohibition for agricultural emergencies or environmental emergencies. Prohibits use of neonicotinoid treated article seed beginning July 1, 2029. AAFM may issue an exemption from the prohibition if supply of seed is insufficient or presents serios financial hardship. |

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| <p style="text-align: center;">H.813</p> <p style="text-align: center;">An act relating to establishing the Tree Fruit Farmer Assistance Program</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall establish the Fruit Farmer Assistance Program consistent with the requirements of this section. • “Fruit” means all perennial grape, berry, stone fruit, and pome fruit crops. • A farm that grows fruit is eligible for assistance under this section if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the farm is currently operating and producing fruit; (2) the farm suffered production losses in May of 2023 due to freezing or frost conditions; (3) the farm is in good standing with AAFM; and (4) the farm submits an application for assistance to the AAFM by a date specified by the Agency. • \$2,000,000.00 GF is appropriated to AAFM to implement the Fruit Farmer Assistance Program |
| <p style="text-align: center;">H.877</p> <p style="text-align: center;">An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amends eligibility requirements for the Farm Agronomic Practices Program. • Adopt additional national standards under the weights and measures standards. • Amends how training can be provided for certified pesticide applicators. • Amend provisions related to mosquito control and provisions. • Amends provisions related to the regulation of fertilizer, limes, plant amendment, plant biostimulants, and soil amendments. |