

1 H.236

2 Introduced by Representatives Pearson of Burlington, Martin of Wolcott, and
3 McCullough of Williston

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Agriculture; control of pesticides; neonicotinoids

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

9 An act relating to the use of neonicotinoid pesticides

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

11 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

12 The General Assembly finds that:

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

16 (2) Bee populations are declining sharply in Vermont and nationwide.
17 Several species of bumblebees are now extinct in Vermont, including the
18 rusty-patched bumblebee, the Ashton cuckoo bumblebee, and the American

1 bumblebee. The yellow-banded bumblebee is seriously imperiled in Vermont
2 and urgent action is required to prevent it from becoming extinct.

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

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

8 (5) Several cities in the United States, including Seattle, Washington,
9 and Eugene, Oregon, have banned the use of neonicotinoid pesticides.

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

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

15 § 1113. USE AND SALE OF NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDES

16 (a) No person shall sell, use, or apply the pesticide imidacloprid,
17 clothianiden, thiamethoxam, donotafuran, or any other member of the nitro
18 group of neonicotinoid pesticides except when the Secretary of Agriculture,
19 Food and Markets determines that a threat to Vermont crops exists that
20 requires the use of a neonicotinoid pesticide and no other class of pesticides
21 would be effective in addressing the threat.

1 (b) When the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets determines that a
2 threat to Vermont crops exists, he or she shall prescribe the type of pesticide
3 that may be used, the conditions for use, and the period for which it may be
4 used, provided that no pesticide authorized to address a threat to Vermont
5 crops under this section shall be authorized for use for more than eight
6 succeeding months.

7 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

8 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.