

1 H.829

2 Introduced by Representative Deen of Westminster

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Conservation and development; agriculture; water quality

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make  
7 technical amendments to water quality requirements for small farms.

8 An act relating to water quality on small farms

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

10 Sec. 1. 6 V.S.A. § 4810a(a) is amended to read:

11 § 4810a. REQUIRED AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES; REVISION

12 (a) On or before July 1, 2016, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and  
13 Markets shall amend by rule the required agricultural practices in order to  
14 improve water quality in the State, assure practices on all farms eliminate  
15 adverse impacts to water quality, and implement the small farm certification  
16 program required by section 4871 of this title. At a minimum, the amendments  
17 to the required agricultural practices shall:

18 (1) Specify those farms that:

19 (A) are required to comply with the small farm certification  
20 requirements under section 4871 of this title due to the potential impact of the

1 farm or type of farm on water quality as a result of livestock managed on the  
2 farm, agricultural inputs used by the farm, or tillage practices on the farm; and

3 (B) shall be subject to the required agricultural practices, but shall not  
4 be required to comply with small farm certification requirements under section  
5 4871 of this title.

6 (2)(A) Prohibit a farm from stacking or piling manure, storing fertilizer,  
7 or storing other nutrients on unimproved sites or unapproved sites on the farm:

8 (i) in a manner and location that presents a threat of discharge to a  
9 water of the State or presents a threat of contamination to groundwater; or

10 (ii) on lands in a floodway or otherwise subject to annual flooding.

11 (B) ~~It~~ Except for waste storage facilities designed by a licensed  
12 engineer, in no case shall manure stacking or piling sites, fertilizer storage, or  
13 other nutrient storage be located within 200 feet of a private well or within  
14 200 feet of a water of the State, provided that the Secretary may authorize  
15 siting within 200 feet, but not less than 100 feet, of a private well or surface  
16 water if the Secretary determines that a manure stacking or piling site, fertilizer  
17 storage, or other nutrient storage will not have an adverse impact on  
18 groundwater quality or a surface water quality.

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