

H.778

An act relating to State enforcement of the federal Food Safety Modernization Act

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 6 V.S.A. chapter 66 is added to read:

CHAPTER 66. PRODUCE INSPECTION

§ 851. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Agency” means the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

(2) “Farm” means lands that are owned or leased by a person engaged in any of the activities stated in 10 V.S.A. § 6001(22).

(3) “Produce” shall have the same meaning as used in 21 C.F.R. § 112.3.

(4) “Produce farm” means any farm engaged in the growing, harvesting, packing, or holding of produce.

(5) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

§ 852. AUTHORITY; ENFORCEMENT

(a) The Secretary may enforce in the State the requirements of the rules adopted under the federal Food Safety Modernization Act, Public Law No. 111-353, for standards for growing, harvesting, packing, and holding of produce for human consumption, 21 C.F.R. part 112.

(b) The Agency may collaborate with the Vermont Department of Health regarding application of the federal Food Safety Modernization Act and the rules adopted thereunder.

(c) The Secretary shall carry out the provisions of this chapter using:

(1) monies appropriated to the Agency by the federal government for the purpose of administering the federal Food Safety Modernization Act and the rules adopted thereunder;

(2) monies appropriated to the Agency by the State for the purpose of administering this chapter; and

(3) other gifts, bequests, and donations by private entities for the purposes of administering this chapter.

§ 853. FARM INSPECTIONS

(a)(1) The Secretary may inspect a produce farm during reasonable hours for the purposes of ensuring compliance with:

(A) the federal standards for growing, harvesting, packing, and holding of produce for human consumption, as adopted under 21 C.F.R. part 112; or

(B) the rules adopted under this chapter.

(2) Unless the circumstances warrant otherwise, the Secretary shall provide reasonable notice prior to inspection.

(3) This section shall not limit the Secretary's authority to respond to an emergency in order to prevent a public health hazard under section 21 of this title.

(b) After inspection, the Secretary may issue an inspection certificate that shall include the date and place of inspection along with any other pertinent facts that the Secretary may require.

(c) The Secretary may coordinate with other State agencies and organizations to carry out inspections at or near the same time on a given produce farm.

§ 854. RECORDS

The owner or operator of a produce farm shall maintain records required by the federal Food Safety Modernization Act, rules adopted thereunder, and rules adopted under this chapter and shall make those records available to the Agency upon request.

§ 855. RULES

The Secretary may adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 as may be necessary to implement this chapter.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.