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H.829

Introduced by Representative Deen of Westminster

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Conservation and development; agriculture; water quality

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

An act relating to water quality on small farms

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

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

§ 4810a. REQUIRED AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES; REVISION

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

(1) Specify those farms that:

(A) are required to comply with the small farm certification 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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