
This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Council without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

Act No. 75 (H.495). Agriculture; forestry; taxation; working lands

An act relating to miscellaneous agriculture subjects

This act amends multiple provisions related to agriculture and forestry. The act amends aspects of the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets' (Agency's) enforcement authority, including use of assurance of discontinuances, notice and hearing for violations, and authority to collect unpaid penalties. The act allows the Agency to set multi-year terms for permits with fees of less than \$175.00.

The act clarifies that required riparian buffers are eligible agricultural land under the use value appraisal program. The act provides that acquisition of property funded by the Vermont Housing Conservation Board and gifted to the Agency is deemed accepted by the Governor. The act also requires the Working Lands Enterprise Board to establish guidelines for prioritizing awards of assistance.

The act creates a sales tax exemption for forestry equipment and dyed diesel used in forestry equipment. The act creates a Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation program to provide assistance to timber harvesters to comply with water quality rules. The act requires the Agency to report to the General Assembly regarding collection of information on subsurface tile drains.

The act amends the Agency's late fee for weights and measures licenses. The act allows a poultry producer to submit to the Agency a good commercial practices plan instead of a humane livestock handling plan. The act also adds a definition of "milk" to the requirements for the sale of raw milk to clarify that milk from cows, goats, sheep, and water buffalo may be sold as raw milk.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 12, 2017