

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Agriculture to which was referred House Bill No. 915  
3 entitled “An act relating to the protection of pollinators” respectfully reports  
4 that it recommends that the Senate propose to the House that the bill be  
5 amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu  
6 thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 6 V.S.A. § 641 is amended to read:

8 § 641. DEFINITIONS

9 As used in this chapter:

10 (1) “Agricultural seed” includes grass, forage, cereal, oil, fiber, and  
11 other kinds of crop seeds commonly recognized as agricultural seeds, lawn  
12 seeds, and combinations of such seeds, and may include noxious weed seeds  
13 used as agricultural seed.

14 (2) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets  
15 or ~~his or her~~ designee.

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

17 (4) “Flower seed” includes seed of herbaceous plants grown for their  
18 blooms, ornamental foliage, or other ornamental parts, and commonly known  
19 and sold under the name of flower seed.

20 \* \* \*



1 Sec. 2. 6 V.S.A. chapter 35, subchapter 3 is added to read:

2 Subchapter 3. Seed Supply; Untreated Corn or Soybean Seed

3 § 650. SEED SUPPLY; UNTREATED CORN OR SOYBEAN SEED

4 A person who sells treated corn or soybean seed in the State shall offer for  
5 sale untreated corn or soybean seed. As used in this section, “offer for sale”  
6 includes arranging for or taking orders for the delivery of untreated corn or  
7 soybean seed.

8 Sec. 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF REQUIREMENT TO OFFER

9 UNTREATED CORN OR SOYBEAN SEED

10 A person shall be required to offer untreated corn or soybean seed for sale  
11 under 6 V.S.A. § 650 beginning on July 1, 2018 for the purpose of use during  
12 the planting season in 2019.

13 Sec. 4. AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS REPORT

14 ON IMPACT OF NEONICOTINOID-TREATED SEEDS ON

15 POLLINATORS

16 (a) The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets (Secretary) shall assess  
17 the effect of neonicotinoid-treated seeds on the loss of pollinator populations in  
18 Vermont by independently reviewing claims of pollinator losses by  
19 beekeepers. On or before January 15, 2019, the Secretary shall submit to the  
20 House Committee on Agriculture and Forestry and the Senate Committee on

1 Agriculture the results of the assessment of pollinator losses. The report shall  
2 include:

3 (1) data collected by the Secretary regarding pollinator losses in the  
4 State, provided that the data shall be provided in an aggregated form that does  
5 not disclose the identity of individual persons, households, or businesses from  
6 whom the data were obtained;

7 (2) the causes of pollinator losses;

8 (3) an assessment of whether neonicotinoid-treated seeds caused or  
9 contributed to any pollinator losses in Vermont; and

10 (4) recommendations, if any, for preventing pollinator losses in  
11 Vermont.

12 (b) As used in this section:

13 (1) “Economic poison” shall have the same meaning as in 6 V.S.A.  
14 § 911.

15 (2) “Neonicotinoid pesticide” means any economic poison containing a  
16 chemical belonging to the neonicotinoid class of chemicals.

17 (3) “Neonicotinoid-treated seed” means agricultural seed treated with a  
18 neonicotinoid pesticide.

19 **Sec. 5. EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN; PESTICIDES AND POLLINATORS**

20 The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall develop and  
21 implement an educational program to inform users of pesticides in the State of

1 the effects of pesticides on pollinators and methods or techniques for  
2 mitigating the effects of pesticides on pollinators. The Secretary of  
3 Agriculture, Food and Markets shall conduct the educational program at least  
4 until July 1, 2020.

5 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

6 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

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9 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Senator \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE