

1 Introduced by Committee on Agriculture and Forestry

2 Referred to Committee on

3 Date:

4 Subject: Agriculture; pollinator protection; pesticides

5 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require a
6 person who sells treated article corn or soybean seed in the State to offer for
7 sale untreated corn or soybean seed. The bill also requires the Secretary of
8 Agriculture, Food and Markets to assess the effect of neonicotinoid-treated
9 seeds on pollinator losses in the State. The bill also requires the Secretary of
10 Agriculture, Food and Markets to develop and implement an educational
11 program to inform users of pesticides in the State of the effects of pesticides on
12 pollinators.

13 An act relating to the protection of pollinators

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

15 * * * Treated Article Seed; Untreated Seed * * *

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

17 § 641. DEFINITIONS

18 As used in this chapter:

19 (1) “Agricultural seed” includes grass, forage, cereal, oil, fiber, and
20 other kinds of crop seeds commonly recognized as agricultural seeds, lawn

1 seeds, and combinations of such seeds, and may include noxious weed seeds
2 used as agricultural seed.

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

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

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

9 * * *

10 (7) “Vegetable seeds” include the seeds of those crops ~~which~~ that are
11 grown in gardens and on truck farms and are generally known and sold under
12 the name of vegetable or herb seeds in this State.

13 * * *

14 (11) “Treated article” or “treated article pesticide” shall have the same
15 meaning as “treated article” in section 1101 of this title.

16 (12) “Treated article corn or soybean seed” means a corn or soybean
17 seed that is a treated article pesticide.

18 (13) “Untreated corn or soybean seed” means corn or soybean seed that
19 is not a treated article pesticide.

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

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

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

2 (a) A person who sells treated article corn or soybean seed in the State shall
3 offer for sale untreated corn or soybean seed.

4 (b) A person shall satisfy the requirements of subsection (a) of this section
5 if the person offers untreated corn or soybean seed for sale in the amount of at
6 least 10 percent of the weight of treated corn or soybean seed offered for sale.

7 Sec. 2. AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS REPORT
8 ON IMPACT OF NEONICOTINOID-TREATED SEEDS ON
9 POLLINATORS

10 (a) The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets (Secretary) shall assess
11 the effect of neonicotinoid-treated seeds on the loss of pollinator populations in
12 Vermont by independently reviewing claims of pollinator losses by
13 beekeepers. On or before January 15, 2019, the Secretary shall submit to the
14 House Committee on Agriculture and Forestry and the Senate Committee on
15 Agriculture the results of the assessment of pollinator losses. The report shall
16 include:

17 (1) data collected by the Secretary regarding pollinator losses in the
18 State, provided that the data shall be provided in an aggregated form that does
19 not disclose the identity of individual persons, households, or businesses from
20 whom the data was obtained;

21 (2) the causes of pollinator losses;

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

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

5 (b) As used in this section:

6 (1) “Economic poison” shall have the same meaning as in 6 V.S.A.
7 § 911.

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

10 Sec. 3. EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN; PESTICIDES AND POLLINATORS

11 The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall develop and
12 implement an educational program to inform users of pesticides in the State of
13 the effects of pesticides on pollinators and methods or techniques for
14 mitigating the effects of pesticides on pollinators. The Secretary of
15 Agriculture, Food and Markets shall conduct the educational program at least
16 until July 1, 2020.

17 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

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