

6 V.S.A. § 642 et seq.

(4) Before offered for sale in the state, the Secretary, in consultation with a Committee described below, may review genetically engineered seed traits, and prohibit, restrict, or limit the sale, distribution and planting of such seeds.

- a. Upon request, of the Secretary of the Agency, a Committee shall be convened to review new genetically engineered seed trait(s). The Committee shall consist of: the Secretary of the Agency of Agriculture, or designee; a certified commercial agricultural pesticide applicator; an agronomist or relevant crop specialist from the University of Vermont or Vermont Technical College; a licensed seed dealer; and a member of the impacted farming sector.
- b. Genetically engineered seed traits would need a majority approval prior to sale and use in Vermont.
  - a. The Committee may propose additional limitations on sales and distribution, or limit time period for sales, in order to ensure appropriateness of traits for Vermont agriculture.
- c. If adverse effects are identified by the Agency of Agriculture, the Secretary may re-convene the Committee to re-evaluate a previously allowed trait.

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This is to preempt issues related to dicamba-tolerant soybean seed traits that are being sold throughout the US. While the Agency of Agriculture can deny registration of the pesticide product, it cannot deny registration of the seed. If the seed is sold; misuse and potential civil claims can impact farming. In the Midwest and southeast, there are millions of acres of farmland impacted by drift from treating dicamba-tolerant soybeans—and has pitted farmer against farmer. In Vermont our soybean acreage is limited, but dicamba tolerant corn is on track to be offered for sale in the next few years.