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**Act No. 141 (S.301). An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects**

**Subjects: Agriculture; water quality; livestock; warehouses; mosquito control; Vermont Agricultural Credit Corporation**

The act amends the existing Vermont Seeding and Filter Strip Program at the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFM) to eliminate the requirement that a participating farmer commit to a 10-year term during which land in proximity to water will be out of production. Time limits for participation will now be a part of the grant agreement for financial assistance.

The act eliminates the need for milk handlers and slaughterhouses to obtain an agricultural warehouse license. The act amends the definitions under the regulation of livestock dealer to clarify how livestock transporters are regulated. The act also amends definitions regarding contagious diseases and animal movement for consistency across statute. The act makes technical changes to the mosquito control grant program and requires AAFM to register second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides sold or used in the State as restricted use pesticides.

The act makes several changes to the services and eligibility for services under the Vermont Agricultural Credit Program (VACP). The act provides that the VACP shall provide funding for farm and forest products businesses not only when these businesses are not having their credit needs met but also to serve as an inducement for the establishment or expansion of projects in the State. VACP would also be authorized to award farm ownership loans for farm worker housing or farmer housing. VACP assistance would also be available to specialty service business providers, such as foresters or farriers.

In addition, the act prohibits pet shops from selling dogs and cats beginning on July 1, 2024, except in certain circumstances. The act also prohibits the sale of the paws and internal organs of black bears except when the paws are sold as part of a taxidermy product.

Effective Date: July 1, 2024