

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry to which was
3 referred House Bill No. 739 entitled “An act relating to prohibiting the use and
4 sale of the herbicide paraquat” respectfully reports that it has considered the
5 same and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the
6 enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

8 The General Assembly finds that:

9 (1) Paraquat or paraquat dichloride is a synthetic, nonselective contact
10 herbicide that is a member of the bipyridylium chemical family and that
11 defoliates all vegetation that it touches.

12 (2) Paraquat was first registered in the United States in 1964, and, in
13 1978, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) classified all paraquat
14 products as restricted use pesticides because of paraquat’s high acute toxicity
15 and potential for poisoning.

16 (3) Paraquat has been widely used throughout the United States since its
17 classification as a restricted use pesticide, and 24 currently registered pesticide
18 products approved for use in the United States contain paraquat.

19 (4) The Pesticide Action Network’s 2024 Consolidated List of Banned
20 Pesticides identifies 72 countries as banning the use of paraquat, including

1 Brazil, China, Malaysia, Peru, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey, and
2 Vietnam.

3 (5) The European Union banned paraquat in 2007 after a court
4 determined that the relevant regulatory body had failed to apply proper
5 procedures for evaluation of the herbicide and that the regulatory body was not
6 properly thorough in its assessments of paraquat’s effects on human and
7 animal health.

8 (6) Multiple studies by the National Institutes of Health have
9 demonstrated that paraquat exposure substantially increases the risk of
10 Parkinson’s disease in those exposed to the herbicide.

11 (7) Studies by the National Institutes of Health and others have linked
12 exposure to paraquat to increased risk of non-Hodgkin lymphoma and
13 childhood leukemia.

14 (8) In 2021, as part of a product registration review of paraquat required
15 under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), the
16 EPA issued an interim decision approving the continued registration of
17 paraquat for use in the United States, despite multiple public comments
18 objecting to approval and significant scientific evidence regarding the potential
19 health effects of paraquat exposure.

20 (9) Multiple parties subsequently moved to challenge the EPA interim
21 decision authorizing the continued registration and use of paraquat. In

1 particular, the challenging parties contested the EPA’s assessment of the
2 increased risk of Parkinson’s disease due to exposure to paraquat from
3 volatilization during use.

4 (10) In January 2025, after a petition from the EPA, a court allowed the
5 EPA to withdraw the interim registration approval for paraquat so that the EPA
6 may reconsider its initial conclusion concerning the potential for paraquat to
7 volatilize and to determine whether paraquat continues to meet FIFRA’s
8 registration standard.

9 (11) In October 2025, the EPA issued a memorandum titled
10 *PARAQUAT: Review of the Volatilization Potential of Paraquat from Field*
11 *Uses* and determined that there is a greater uncertainty regarding the potential
12 for paraquat to volatilize than previously understood. The EPA concluded that
13 more data is needed to understand the risk paraquat poses to bystanders.

14 (12) The EPA’s reevaluation of the risks of paraquat may take years,
15 and the EPA’s withdrawal of the interim registration and further evaluation
16 does not prohibit the continued use of paraquat during that review period.

17 (13) Instead of waiting for EPA action on whether or how to use
18 paraquat, the State of Vermont should ban the use of paraquat in order to
19 protect Vermonters from the known, significant health effects of exposure to
20 paraquat.

1 Sec. 2. 6 V.S.A. § 1105d is added to read:

2 § 1105d. USE AND SALE OF PARAQUAT; REPORT

3 (a) Definition. As used in this section, “paraquat” means an herbicide:

4 (1) known as paraquat, with the chemical name 1,1'-Dimethyl-4,4'-
5 bipyridinium ion and the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) registry
6 number 4685-14-7;

7 (2) known as paraquat dichloride, with the chemical name 1,1'-
8 Dimethyl-4,4'-bipyridinium dichloride and the CAS registry number 1910-42-
9 5;

10 (3) known as paraquat dimethyl sulfate, with the chemical name 1,1'-
11 Dimethyl-4,4'-bipyridinium dimethyl sulfate and the CAS registry number
12 2074-50-2; or

13 (4) known as paraquat, with the chemical name 1,1'-Dimethyl-4,4'-
14 bipyridinium ion and all salts thereof.

15 (b) Prohibition. No person shall sell, use, or apply paraquat except when
16 authorized by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets under subsection
17 (c) of this section.

18 (c) Authorized use. The Secretary may issue a written permit for the sale,
19 use, or application of paraquat within fruit-producing tree orchards only on or
20 before November 1, 2030. The Secretary shall ensure that any authorized
21 certified applicator of paraquat has received all training required by the

1 Environmental Protection Agency and the Agency of Agriculture, Food and
2 Markets not more than one year prior to receiving a permit for authorized use
3 of paraquat. A written exemption order under this subsection shall:

4 (1) not be valid for more than three years or until November 1, 2030,
5 whichever comes first; and

6 (2) specify the paraquat, uses, and crops or plants to which the permit
7 applies; the date the permit takes effect; the permit's duration; and the permit's
8 geographic scope, which may include specific farms, fields, or properties.

9 (d) Reporting. The Secretary shall report annually on all data regarding
10 any use of paraquat in the State. The report shall include the amount of
11 paraquat used and the date and location where the paraquat was used. The
12 Secretary shall submit the report to the House Committee on Agriculture, Food
13 Resiliency, and Forestry and the Senate Committee on Agriculture on or before
14 December 15 of each year.

15 Sec. 3. ALTERNATIVES TO PARAQUAT; STUDY; REPORT

16 The Agricultural Innovation Board shall study and report on
17 recommendations for alternatives to the use of paraquat for farmers. The
18 report shall include pesticide alternatives to paraquat, recommendations for
19 practices that reduce the use of and exposure to paraquat, and methods and
20 standards for transitioning farmers to practices that reduce paraquat usage.
21 The report shall also include recommendations for alternative pesticides to

1 paraquat and alternative farming practices to reduce the usage of paraquat in
2 the event paraquat becomes unavailable due to regulatory or commercial action
3 prior to November 1, 2030. On or before January 15, 2027, the Agricultural
4 Innovation Board shall submit the report to the House Committee on
5 Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry and the Senate Committee on
6 Agriculture.

7 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

8 (a) This section and Sec. 3 (alternatives to paraquat; study; report) shall
9 take effect on July 1, 2026.

10 (b) All other sections shall take effect on November 1, 2026.

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15 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE