

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Appropriations to which was referred Senate Bill No.
3 323 entitled “An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects”
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
5 report of the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry be
6 amended as follows:

7 First: By adding a reader assistance heading and one new section to be Sec.
8 24a to read as follows:

9 * * * Farm and Forestry Operations Security Special Fund * * *

10 Sec. 24a. 6 V.S.A. § 4643(e) is amended to read:

11 (e) All administratively complete applications shall be evaluated by the
12 Review Board. Within 15 days following receipt of an administratively
13 complete application, the Review Board by majority vote shall recommend to
14 the Secretary whether to issue a payment to the applicant. ~~If the Review Board~~
15 ~~recommends an award under this section, the~~ The Secretary shall ~~issue the~~
16 ~~award~~ make a final award determination within 15 days following the date of
17 the Review Board’s recommendation.

18 Second: By adding one reader assistance heading and two new sections to
19 be Sec. 24b and 24c to read as follows:

20 * * * Permitting Large and Medium Farm Operations * * *

21 Sec. 24b. 6 V.S.A. § 4851(i) is amended to read:

1 (i) ~~A Beginning on July 1, 2026, a person required to obtain a permit under~~
2 ~~this section shall submit not be required to pay an annual operating fee of~~
3 ~~\$2,500.00 to the Secretary. During any calendar year in which a person has an~~
4 ~~active Large Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation permit issued by the~~
5 ~~Agency of Natural Resources pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act and pays~~
6 ~~the required associated fee, that person shall not be required to pay the~~
7 ~~\$2,500.00 annual operating fee described in this section. The fees collected~~
8 ~~under this section shall be deposited in the Agricultural Water Quality Special~~
9 ~~Fund under section 4803 of this title.~~

10 Sec. 24c. 6 V.S.A. § 4858(e) is amended to read:

11 (e) Operating fee. ~~A Beginning on July 1, 2026, a person required to~~
12 ~~obtain a permit or coverage under this section shall submit not be required to~~
13 ~~pay an annual operating fee of \$1,500.00 to the Secretary. The fees collected~~
14 ~~under this section shall be deposited in the Agricultural Water Quality Special~~
15 ~~Fund under section 4803 of this title.~~

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3 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE