

Senate Agriculture Committee Miscellaneous Agriculture Bill v. 3.2 Summary
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<p>Municipal Agriculture Regulation Sections 1-3</p>	<p>These sections propose to undo the holding in <i>Taft Street</i> that permitted broad municipal regulation of agriculture. Section 1 includes legislative findings and intent regarding the State’s history of agriculture regulation and how <i>Taft Street</i> changed the status quo.</p> <p>Section 2 amends the statute at issue in <i>Taft Street</i> and clarifies that agricultural activity subject to the Required Agricultural practices cannot be regulated by municipal bylaw. In addition to restoring the pre-<i>Taft Street</i> status quo, this section also would prohibit municipal regulation of growing plants and raising backyard poultry, excluding roosters.</p> <p>Section 3 amends the Required Agricultural Practices Rule to amend thresholds for what agricultural activity is subject to the RAPs Rule.</p>
<p>Vermont Income, Capital Gains, and Property Transfer Tax Sections 4-5</p>	<p>These sections would exempt net farm profit from income tax, provided the net profit does not exceed \$10,000. The section also would exempt capital gain income and property transfer tax from the sale of real estate that is part of a farming operation if sold to a relative or 10-year or more employee and the buyer continues using the property as a farm. These sections would recapture the capital gain and property tax transfer if the buyer developed the land.</p>
<p>Accessory On-Farm Structure Permit Section 6</p>	<p>This section changes the sales threshold where a permit or permit amendment would not be required to construct an accessory on-farm business for preparation or processing qualifying products. The threshold would change from 50% of the total sales to a fixed dollar amount at \$250,000.00.</p>
<p>Agricultural Land Definition Section 7</p>	<p>This section amends the definition of “agricultural land” to include a presumption that land is used for agricultural purposes if a certain amount of farm crops are donated.</p>
<p>Farm Kitchens Section 8</p>	<p>This section designates a “farm kitchen operation” as a new category of food processing establishment.</p>
<p>New Electric Generation Facility Siting Section 10</p>	<p>This section would require that as part of electric generation facility siting cases before the PUC, AAFM would be a required party in addition to ANR. Applications for certain electric generating facilities would be required to include information on secondary and local importance agricultural soils. This section also amends requirements for issuing a certificate of public good, including that the that preclusion of</p>

	farming on more than five acres will be an undue adverse effect.
Milk Producers Section 11	This section would clarify that a milk producer may request a hearing regarding a dispute with a purchaser.
Farm-to-School Program Contracts Section 12	This section would permit contracts in addition to grants for participation in the Farm-to-School Program
Pest Control Compact Repeal Section 13	This section repeals the Interstate Pest Control Compact that is now defunct. The Compact was an insurance fund meant to help states detect and control agricultural pests beyond their individual state boundaries, with the goal of lessening interstate infestations. The Compact ceased operations in 2013 due to a change in costs arising from change in the Compact's federal tax designation.
Amending Pesticide Exam Requirements Section 14	This section would remove the limit to the number of times individuals may retake the pesticide applicator and dealer licenses.
Seed Law Conforming to Universal Standards Section 15-20	These sections would conform seed law to universal standards, including amending definitions, label requirements, administrative penalties for failure to report the quantity of genetically engineered seeds, and registration and reporting requirements including genetically engineered material and treated article seeds.
Consolidate VACP within VEDA Section 21-22	The Vermont Agricultural Credit Program (VACP) currently provides credit to eligible agricultural projects and is administered by its own board. These sections would have the Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA) administer VACP directly.
LFO and MFO Permitting Section 23-24	These sections would remove the annual operating fee permit for large and medium farms.
Floor Drain Study Section 25	This section would require that ANR, in coordination with AAFM, study the permitting process for the use of floor drains in produce wash facilities and provide recommendations for making that process more efficient.
Effective Date Section 26	Effective date is July 1, 2026 for all sections at this moment.