



2021 Legislative Session Bills Introduced

5/7/2021

H.003 This bill proposes to prohibit the land application of sludge or septage except for the land application of exceptional quality biosolids. The bill would require municipally owned wastewater treatment facilities to accept septage for treatment. The bill would establish a Biosolids Conversion Special Fund to provide grants to municipal wastewater facilities for the purpose of converting septage and sludge to exceptional quality biosolids.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.3>

H.004 This bill proposes to ban the use, sale, or application of the pesticide chlorpyrifos.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.4>

H.009 This bill proposes to clarify that land underlying a solar array may remain in current use as agricultural land, provided that the land is 0.1 of an acre or less, and meets all other current use requirements.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.9>

H.015 Proposes to prohibit the use, sale, or application of the pesticide chlorpyrifos and the use, sale, or application of the herbicides glyphosate and atrazine.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.15>

S.020 ****Passed House with proposal of amendment 5/7/2021**** An act relating to restrictions on perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances and other chemicals of concern in consumer products.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/S.20>

S.055 This bill proposes to require employers to provide employees with a minimum of two weeks of paid vacation leave per year.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/S.55>

H.067 This bill proposes to authorize a person engaged in the business of farming to seek compensation from the Department of Fish and Wildlife for damage by a black bear to crops, fruit trees, or crop-bearing plants.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.67>

S.083 An act relating to the Dairy Industry stabilization program. This bill proposes to impose a \$0.05 tax on every retail package of dairy products sold by a distributor to a retailer. The bill would also establish the Dairy Industry Stabilization Program to provide financial assistance to dairy farmers in the State. The financial assistance would be provided in the form of a premium over the federal order price that the State shall pay each registered dairy farmer in the State per hundredweight of milk sold in the State.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/S.83>

H.088 ****In Senate Finance; Passed House on 3/9/21**** This bill proposes to change the frequency with which owners must certify the agricultural use of land or buildings enrolled in current use from every year to every three years. This bill also proposes to require the Department of Taxes and the Agency of Agriculture to conduct a study on the possibility of using an online portal for the purposes of current use and to report the study's findings to the General Assembly.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.88>

H.089 ****Passed both House & Senate**** This bill proposes to make providers of agritourism activities immune from civil liability if a participant is injured as a result of risks inherent in the activity and the provider has posted a warning about those risks.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.89>

S.100 ****In House Education; Passed Senate 4/30/21**** An act relating to universal school breakfast and lunch for all public school students and to creating incentives for schools to purchase locally produced foods. This bill proposes to require all public schools in Vermont to make available school breakfast and lunch to all students at no charge. The cost of school meals that is not reimbursed through federal or State funds or other sources would be borne by school districts and therefore ultimately borne by the Education Fund. This bill also proposes to create incentives for schools to purchase locally produced foods.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/S.100>

S.102 ****Passed both Senate & House**** An act relating to the regulation of agricultural inputs for farming. This bill proposes to require the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to regulate compost foraging as farming. The bill would amend the definition of “farming” under Act 250 and the Required Agricultural Practices to include compost foraging. The bill would also require the manufacturer or distributor of animal health products, feed supplements, biostimulants, soil amendments, and plant amendments sold or distributed in the State to register the products with the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/S.102>

H.108 ****Passed House & Senate**** An act relating to Vermont standards for issuing a Clean Water Act section 401 certification. This bill proposes to amend the Vermont Water Quality Standards (VWQS) to clarify that the standards apply to wetlands and discharges to wetlands. The bill also would amend the VWQS to require that any federal Clean Water Act (CWA) section 401 certification issued by the State for waters or for wetlands shall include: an evaluation of water quality impacts on waters and wetlands and an evaluation of alternative means of accomplishing the proposed action for which certification is sought. The bill would require that the State conduct a cumulative impacts analysis of the water quality impacts on waters and wetlands of an activity subject to the CWA section 401 certification. A CWA section 401 certification would not be granted unless the Secretary of Natural Resources determines that the proposed activity meets the VWQS.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.108>

S.112 An act relating to proposed changes to Act 250

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/S.112>

S.113 An act relating to establishing a cause of action for medical monitoring expenses. This bill proposes to establish a cause of action for the remedy of medical monitoring for a person who is exposed to a proven toxic substance. In addition, the bill would provide that a person is liable for abating a release or threatened release of hazardous material and the costs of investigation, removal, and remedial actions incurred by the State if the person manufactured a hazardous material for commercial sale and knew or should have known that the material presented a threat of harm to human health or the natural environment.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/S.113>

H.120 This bill proposes to make multiple changes to the State land use laws, including Act 250, to incorporate strategies to address and mitigate climate change.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.120>

H.167 This bill would establish the Environmental Stewardship Board to oversee and consult with the Secretary of Natural Resources regarding the operation and coordination of the Agency of Natural Resources and the management, protection, and conservation of State surface waters, wetlands, wildlife, forests, Agency of Natural Resources lands, groundwater, air quality, and other natural resources managed or regulated by the Agency of Natural Resources.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.167>

H.218 ****Passed House & Senate**** This bill proposes to authorize farm stands and community-supported agriculture organizations (CSAs) to sell unpasteurized raw milk produced on a farm other than the farm or farms where the farm stand or CSA organization is located provided that the farm producing the unpasteurized milk is located within 30 miles of the point of sale at the farm stand or CSA organization.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.218>

H.241 This bill proposes to establish an ecosystems services tax credit for activities on working agricultural land and managed forestlands that sequester carbon or improve water quality.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.241>

H.299 This bill proposes to require a person permitted by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets to apply pesticides in a right of way to provide public notice of the application. This bill also proposes to require all public water supply system permittees to publicly display their most recent results from monitoring or sampling. Additionally, this bill would require all public water supply systems, including restaurants, schools, hospitals, and gas stations, that are not in compliance to display notice of their results and notice of noncompliance at each public entrance. This bill also proposes to require the Department of Health, at least every other day, to conduct or arrange for monitoring for the presence of cyanobacteria in every State or municipal recreation area where the public can come into contact with waters of the State. This bill would also require public notice of the land application of biosolids or septage. In addition, this bill proposes to require the seller of real property to disclose to the buyer prior to the conveyance whether a water within a five mile radius of the property tested positive for cyanobacteria in the five years prior to the conveyance.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.299>

H.400 An act relating to changes to the Natural Resources Board and Act 250.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.400>

H.420 ****Passed House 3/12/2021**** This bill proposes to make multiple miscellaneous amendments to agricultural subjects. The bill would repeal the sunset provision for personal and itinerant slaughter, clarify the definition of “livestock dealer,” and amend eligibility requirements for the veterinarian educational loan repayment program. The bill would clarify the jurisdiction of the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets over weights and measures, extend the payment for ecosystem services and soil health working group for one year, and clarify the agricultural records that are exempt from public inspection. The bill would amend the hemp program to align it with evolving federal law. The bill would also update the Agriculture Annex to the State Emergency Operations Plan to improve the capacity of the State to maintain a sufficient food supply during times of emergency or other food insecurity.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.420>

H.434 ****Up for action in Senate**** This bill proposes to establish the Agricultural Innovation Board to replace the Pesticide Advisory Council. The Agricultural Innovation Board would make recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly for prioritizing and coordinating the implementation of the recommendations of the Soil Health and Payment for Ecosystem Services Working Group, the Vermont Climate Council, and other relevant recommendations. The Agricultural Innovation Board would also recommend practices that reduce the use of and exposure to pesticides and synthetic fertilizers in order to protect soil biology, human health, and environmental health. In addition, the Board would advise the Executive Branch and the General Assembly with respect to legislation concerning the use of agricultural pest control measures and integrated pest management. An act relating to establishing the Agricultural Innovation Board It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont: Sec. 1. 6 V.S.A. chapter 215, subchapter 7A is amended to read: Subchapter 7A. Regenerative Farming Regenerative and Innovative.

H.439 ****Committee of Conference appointed: Senators Kitchel, Sears, and Westman; Speaker appointed Hooper of Montpelier, Fagan of Rutland City and Jessup of Middlesex**** The "Big Bill" - An act relating to making appropriations for the support of government.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.439>