

1 S.200

2 Introduced by Senators Pollina and Zuckerman

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Agriculture; control of pesticides; neonicotinoids

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to ban the use,
7 sale, or application of neonicotinoid pesticides.

8 An act relating to the use of neonicotinoid pesticides

9 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

10 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

11 The General Assembly finds that:

12 (1) Bumblebees, native bees, and honey bees pollinate native plants and
13 crops in Vermont and, therefore, are vital to Vermont's ecology and
14 agriculture.

15 (2) Bee populations are declining sharply in Vermont and nationwide.
16 Several species of bumblebees are now extinct in Vermont, including the
17 rusty-patched bumblebee, the Ashton cuckoo bumblebee, and the American
18 bumblebee. The yellow-banded bumblebee is seriously imperiled in Vermont
19 and urgent action is required to prevent it from becoming extinct.

1 (3) The use of neonicotinoid pesticides, a relatively new class of
2 pesticides, contributes significantly to the decline of bee populations in
3 Vermont and elsewhere.

4 (4) Fifteen countries have imposed a moratorium on the use of
5 neonicotinoids.

6 (5) Several cities in the United States, including Seattle, Washington,
7 and Eugene, Oregon, have banned the use of neonicotinoid pesticides.

8 (6) In order to help preserve Vermont's bee populations and,
9 consequently, its native plant species, and to maintain the essential role of bees
10 as pollinators of crops in Vermont, the sale and use of neonicotinoid pesticides
11 should be banned in Vermont.

12 Sec. 2. 6 V.S.A. § 1113 is added to read:

13 § 1113. USE AND SALE OF NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDES

14 (a) No person shall sell, use, or apply the pesticide imidacloprid,
15 clothianidin, thiamethoxam, donotafuran, or any other member of the nitro
16 group of neonicotinoid pesticides except when the Secretary of Agriculture,
17 Food and Markets determines that a threat to Vermont crops exists that
18 requires the use of a neonicotinoid pesticide and no other class of pesticides
19 would be effective in addressing the threat. The prohibition under this
20 subsection on the sale, use, or application of a member of the nitro group of

1 neonicotinoid pesticides shall apply to seeds coated or treated with a
2 neonicotinoid pesticide.

3 (b) When the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets determines that a
4 threat to Vermont crops exists, he or she shall prescribe the type of pesticide
5 that may be used, the conditions for use, and the period for which it may be
6 used, provided that no pesticide authorized to address a threat to Vermont
7 crops under this section shall be authorized for use for more than eight
8 succeeding months.

9 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

10 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.