

1 H.711

2 Introduced by Representatives Buxton of Tunbridge, Stuart of Brattleboro,

3 Young of Glover and Zagar of Barnard

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Crimes and criminal procedure; humane and proper treatment of

7 animals; adequate shelter and water

8 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to clarify the requirements for

9 sheltering and watering livestock and create a system for certifying animal

10 investigators.

11 An act relating to animal investigators and sheltering livestock

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

13 Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. chapter 8 is amended to read:

14 CHAPTER 8. HUMANE AND PROPER TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

15 * * *

16 § 351. DEFINITIONS

17 As used in this chapter:

18 * * *

19 (17) "Adequate water" means fresh, potable, unfrozen water provided at

20 suitable intervals for the species, and which, in no event, shall exceed 24 hours

1 at any interval. For equines, “adequate water” means fresh, potable, unfrozen
2 water provided two times each day at one gallon per hundredweight of equine.

3 The animal must have access to the water.

4 * * *

5 (19) “Certified animal investigator” means any person who has
6 successfully completed a citizen animal investigator training program pursuant
7 to section 356 of this title.

8 * * *

9 § 356. CERTIFIED ANIMAL INVESTIGATORS

10 (a) The secretary shall collaborate with the department of public safety and
11 the Vermont humane society to create and implement a training program in
12 which any person may apply to become a certified animal investigator. The
13 role of a certified animal investigator shall be limited to legally observing
14 conduct and reporting violations of this chapter to a humane officer or law
15 enforcement officer.

16 (b) The secretary shall collaborate with the department of public safety and
17 the Vermont humane society to create standardized animal abuse report forms
18 that shall be made available to all certified animal investigators.

19 (c) A certified animal investigator may not enforce the law.

20 * * *

1 § 365. SHELTER OF ANIMALS

2 (a) All livestock and animals which are ~~to be~~ predominantly maintained
3 out-of-doors must be provided with adequate shelter to prevent direct exposure
4 to the elements.

5 (b) ~~Adequate natural shelter, or a three-sided, roofed building with~~
6 ~~exposure out of the prevailing wind and of sufficient size to adequately~~
7 ~~accommodate all livestock maintained out-of-doors shall be provided. The~~
8 ~~building opening size and height must, at a minimum, extend one foot above~~
9 ~~the withers of the largest animal housed and must be maintained at that level~~
10 ~~even with manure and litter build-up. Livestock shall have free access to a~~
11 ~~constructed three-sided shelter that is large enough to accommodate all~~
12 ~~livestock comfortably at one time. Shelter should allow all animals the ability~~
13 ~~to turn around and stand at a normal head carriage. The shelter shall be~~
14 ~~structurally sound, well drained, dry, sanitary, and free of debris and sharp~~
15 ~~objects. The shelter shall have a waterproof roof, and protect the livestock~~
16 ~~from direct sun, rain, wind, and other inclement weather.~~ Nothing in this
17 section shall control dairy herd housing facilities, either loose housing, comfort
18 stall or stanchion ties, or other housing under control of the ~~department~~ agency
19 of agriculture, food and markets. This section shall not apply to any accepted
20 housing or grazing practices for any livestock industry.

21 * * *

1 Sec. 2. COMPOSTING FEASIBILITY STUDY; EQUINE CARCASSES

2 On or before January 15, 2013, the secretary of agriculture, food and
3 markets, after consultation with the Vermont humane society, the Vermont
4 farm bureau, rural Vermont, Vermont technical college, and the University of
5 Vermont extension service, shall report to the house and senate committees on
6 agriculture regarding the feasibility of a statewide or regional facility for
7 composting equine carcasses.

8 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATES

9 This act shall take effect on passage.