

1 S.22

2 Introduced by Senator Sears

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Crimes; cruelty to animals; tail docking

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to prohibit the  
7 procedure of docking the tail of a bovine unless the tail docking procedure is  
8 performed by a veterinarian in order to relieve pain or save the life of the  
9 bovine.

10 An act relating to docking the tail of a bovine

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

12 Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 351 is amended to read:

13 § 351. DEFINITIONS

14 As used in this chapter:

15 (1) "Animal" means all living sentient creatures, not human beings.

16 (2) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

17 \* \* \*

18 (7) "Necessary medical attention" shall include medical treatment for  
19 illness, injury, disease, excessive parasitism, or malformed or overgrown hoof.

20 \* \* \*

1           (11) “Livestock” means cattle, bison, horses, sheep, goats, swine,  
2 cervidae, ratites, and camelids.

3                                 \* \* \*

4           (13) “Livestock and poultry husbandry practices” means the raising,  
5 management, and using of animals to provide humans with food, fiber, or  
6 transportation in a manner consistent with:

7                         (A) husbandry practices recommended for the species by agricultural  
8 colleges and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Extension Service;

9                         (B) husbandry practices modified for the species to conform to the  
10 Vermont environment and terrain; and

11                        (C) husbandry practices that minimize pain and suffering.

12                                 \* \* \*

13           (19) “Bovine” means an animal of the family bovidae.

14           (20) “Tail docking” means a procedure in which the spinal cord part of  
15 the tail of an animal is cut or removed for any purpose, including the  
16 shortening of the tail.

17 Sec. 2. 13 V.S.A. § 367 is added to read:

18 § 367. TAIL DOCKING OF A BOVINE

19           (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a person shall not  
20 perform a tail docking on a bovine.

1        (b) Subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to a person who performs a  
2        tail docking on a bovine when a veterinarian licensed under 26 V.S.A. § 2425  
3        determines that the tail docking is necessary to relieve pain or save the life of  
4        the bovine, provided that the tail docking is performed:

5                (1) by a veterinarian licensed under 26 V.S.A. § 2425;

6                (2) after adequate anesthesia is administered to the bovine; and

7                (3) in a manner that minimizes long-term pain to the bovine.

8        (c) A person who violates this section shall be fined not more than \$500.00  
9        per animal subject to the tail docking.

10        (d) Enforcement actions for violations of this section shall not require  
11        consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets pursuant to  
12        section 354 of this title.

13        Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

14        This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.