

1 S.109

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 practice of docking the tail of a horse or bovine unless tail docking is
8 performed by a veterinarian in order to relieve pain or to save the life of the
9 animal.

10 An act relating to docking the tail of a horse or 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 Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

18 * * *

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

2 § 367. TAIL DOCKING OF A HORSE OR A BOVINE

3 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a person shall not:

4 (1) perform a tail docking procedure on a horse or a bovine;

5 (2) sever the muscle or tendon of a horse's tail; or

6 (3) break the tail of a horse.

7 (b) Subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to a person who performs a
8 tail docking on a horse or a bovine, severs a tail muscle or tendon of a horse's
9 tail, or breaks a horse's tail when the procedure is necessary to relieve pain or
10 save the life of a horse or bovine, provided that the procedure is performed:

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

12 (2) after adequate anesthesia is administered to the horse or bovine; and

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

14 (c) A person who violates this section shall be fined not more than \$500.00.

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

18 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

19 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.