

1 S.223

2 Introduced by Senator Snelling

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Agriculture; domestic animals; electric fencing

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to require the secretary of agriculture,
7 food and markets to adopt rules regarding the design, installation, and
8 maintenance of electrically charged wire fences.

9 An act relating to design, installation, and maintenance standards for
10 electrically charged wire fences

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

12 Sec. 1. 6 V.S.A. chapter 106 is added to read:

13 CHAPTER 106. ELECTRICALLY CHARGED WIRE FENCING

14 § 1451. ELECTRIC FENCES; DESIGN; INSTALLATION;

15 MAINTENANCE

16 (a) On or before January 15, 2011, the secretary of agriculture, food and
17 markets shall adopt by rule standards for the design, installation, and
18 maintenance of electrically charged wire fences used for the inclusion or
19 exclusion of domestic animals, as that term is defined in section 1151 of this
20 title. Rules adopted under this section shall:

1 (1) Specify a standard for fencing wire gauge or its equivalent.

2 (2) Specify the maximum height of an electrically charged wire fence.

3 Maximum height may vary for the type of domestic animal subject to inclusion
4 or exclusion by the electrically charged wire fence.

5 (3) Prohibit an electrically charged wire fence from being erected or
6 maintained in contact with a public utility pole, transmission line, or other
7 transmission infrastructure.

8 (4) Specify minimum maintenance requirements for the safe operation
9 of the electrically charged wire fence.

10 (b) In developing the rule required under subsection (a) of this section, the
11 secretary of agriculture, food and markets shall consult with the Vermont farm
12 bureau, electric transmission utilities, animal humane associations, and other
13 interested parties.

14 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2010.