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No. 217

H.476

1 Introduced by Committee on Agriculture

2 Subject: Agriculture; development commission

3 Sponsor's statement of purpose: It is the purpose of this bill to

4 encourage the production of an adequate supply of high quality food

5 and fiber through the creation of an agricultural development com-

6 mission and the redesignation of the existing agricultural markets

7 development division within the department of agriculture.

	Own Vote		Legislative Vote						Comments
	Yes	No	Date	Senate	House	Yes	No	Date	
9			1st Reading						
			Committee Report						
10			2nd Reading						
			3rd Reading						
11			Amended—Calendar						
			Amended—Journal						
			" "						
12			Committed						
			Recommitted						
13			Ordered to Lie						
			Called up						
14			Passed						
			Messaged						
15			Com. of Conference						
			Withdrawn						
16			Signed by Governor						

~~AN ACT TO ADD 6 V.S.A. CHAPTER 162; TO AMEND 10 V.S.A. §§ 211, 212(6)(A) AND~~

~~AN ACT TO ADD 6 V.S.A. CHAPTER 162; TO AMEND 10 V.S.A. §§ 211, 212(6);~~

~~31 V.S.A. § 617; TO ADD 10 V.S.A. § 212(24); AND TO REPEAL SEC. 100 OF NO. 118~~

~~(7) AND (18), 261 AND 263(a) AND (c) AND 31 V.S.A. § 617 AND TO REPEAL~~

~~OF THE ACTS OF 1975 AND SEC. 16 OF NO. 1 OF THE ACTS OF 1975 SPECIAL SESSION~~

~~SECTION 100 OF ACT NO. 118 OF 1975 AND SECTION 16 OF ACT NO. 1 OF THE~~

~~RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT~~

~~1975 SPECIAL SESSION RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT~~

AN ACT TO AMEND 6 V.S.A. § 179; 10 V.S.A. §§ 211, 212(6)(A); AND TO ADD 6 V.S.A.

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

CHAPTER 162 AND 10 V.S.A. § 212(24) RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

~~Sec. 1. Policy~~

~~It is the policy of the state of Vermont to encourage agricultural~~

~~development and diversification through market development, education,~~

Sec. 1. Policy

It is the policy of the state of Vermont to encourage agricultural development and diversification through market development, research on agricultural products, and promotional activities. Processing and food storage facilities will be encouraged, as well as the development of new modes of transportation and the reduction in certain tariff rates. The state will encourage the development of new products and will encourage private individuals and organizations in their agricultural activities. The agricultural activities of the state shall be coordinated with other groups carrying out similar activities in order to maximize the return on public expenditures.

Sec. 2. 6 V.S.A. chapter 162 is added to read:

CHAPTER 162. AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

§ 2961. CREATION OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

(a) There is established within the department of agriculture the agricultural development commission, which shall be composed of the commissioner of agriculture, commissioner of forests and parks or his designee, the director of extension service, and director of research at the University of Vermont or their designees and four members appointed by the governor from a list of ten names, five to be submitted to him by the committee on agriculture of the house and five to be submitted to him by the committee on agriculture of the senate. The public members shall be appointed for terms of two years. The commissioner of agriculture shall be chairman.

(b) The commission shall be attached to the department of agriculture for administrative support. In addition, the commission may use the services and staff of any department to assist it in the performance of its duties. The commissioner of agriculture may appoint a person from within the department of agriculture to serve as executive director to the commission.

(c) Public members of the commission shall receive \$30.00 per diem and necessary expenses incurred while in the performance of their duties.

§ 2962. COMMISSION; POWERS AND DUTIES

The commission may develop policies and recommend procedures for the implementation of coordinated educational, regulatory, research and promotional programs in agriculture. In addition, the commission may:

- (1) Develop a five year continuing agriculture development program for the state which shall be updated biennially;
- (2) Encourage lending institutions to expand their agricultural lending activities;
- (3) Identify those institutional forces which impede agricultural expansion and make recommendations for the removal of those impediments;

(4) Assist individuals and organizations in their agricultural efforts;

(5) Make recommendations to the department of agriculture and the agricultural experiment station on areas where research might prove most beneficial to agriculture in Vermont;

(6) Submit an annual report of its activities to the house and senate committees on agriculture on or before January 15th of each year.

§ 2963. AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

(a) A division of agricultural development is created within the department of agriculture as the successor to and the continuation of the agricultural markets development division.

(b) The development division may:

(1) Assist individuals and organizations in developing ways which will increase the agricultural use of Vermont lands and other agricultural resources;

(2) Assist in maintaining a price reporting system to service the agricultural community of Vermont;

(3) Develop and maintain a directory of producers of food, livestock and fiber products;

(4) Identify and develop new markets for agricultural products and assist in the development of new products which might play a significant part in the expansion of agriculture in Vermont;

(5) Assist in developing the Vermont product identification program created in section 2964 of this title;

(6) Develop an advertising program for Vermont agricultural products;

(7) Assist in the promotion of research on agricultural products.

§ 2964. VERMONT PRODUCTS; IDENTIFICATION

(a) A producer or packer of agricultural products produced in Vermont annually may apply to the commissioner for an identification label which may be applied to his products to indicate that they have been produced in Vermont and have met the standards of quality as established by the commissioner. The labels shall bear the producer's name and a number unique to the producer. The person requesting the labels shall annually pay a minimum fee of \$20.00 plus the costs of all labels requested.

(b) All funds received under this section shall be retained by the department for administration of the products identification program.

(c) The labels provided for in this section shall be designed and issued by the department of agriculture.

§ 2965. MISUSE OF LABELS; PENALTY

A person who fraudulently utilizes the labels issued as provided in section 2964

of this title, who willingly allows another to fraudulently use the labels or who applies the labels to products which do not meet the quality standards as established by the commissioner shall be fined no more than \$500.00 for each offense.

Sec. 3. 6 V.S.A. § 179 is amended to read:

§ 179. REGULATIONS; FEES

The commissioner may prescribe rules and regulations for carrying out the purposes of this chapter, including the fixing of fees for inspections and reasonable tolerances incident to proper grading of agricultural products. In addition, the commissioner may accept fees collected by or for producer organizations for promotional activities. Such fees shall be segregated into separate producer accounts and used to promote agricultural products. All fees collected, except those collected by or for the producer organizations, shall be deposited in the general fund.

Sec. 4. 10 V.S.A. § 211 is amended to read:

§ 211. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS

The legislature finds that it is necessary to alleviate and prevent unemployment and underemployment and to raise the per capita income within the state, that the development and increase of industry, including the further processing of agricultural products, within the state will promote the prosperity and general welfare of all citizens, and that this chapter is necessary and desirable in order to accomplish these purposes. General public advantage requires:

- (1) An increased inventory of industrial sites and modern industrial buildings suitable to house new or existing industrial enterprises;
- (2) The expansion, reclamation, or renovation of existing buildings to house new or existing industrial enterprises;
- (3) Low-cost capital available to local development corporations for the purchase of land for industrial sites, for planning and development of industrial parks and for the construction of speculative industrial buildings;
- (4) Low-cost capital available to industrial enterprises to provide land, buildings, and equipment for industrial expansion;
- (5) Aid to existing industrial enterprises in the state when such aid will prevent serious reduction in employment, or will enhance or increase the existing level of employment;
- (6) Low-cost capital for the abatement of industrial air and water pollution and general improvement of the disposal of industrial waste.

Sec. 5. 10 V.S.A. § 212(6)(A) is amended to read:

(A) quarrying, mining, manufacturing, processing, including the further processing of agricultural products, assembling, or warehousing of goods or materials for sale or distribution or the maintenance of safety standards in connection therewith;

Sec. 6. There is appropriated to the department of agriculture the sum of \$25,000.00 for the purposes of this act. Subject to section 706 of Title 32 the commissioner may transfer funds within his department for the purposes of this act.

Sec. 7. 10 V.S.A. § 212(24) is added to read:

(24) "Processing" means to subject a product to a particular method, system or technique of preparation, handling or other treatment designed to effect a particular result.

Sec. 8. Initial appointments

The appointed members of the commission created in section 2 of this act shall initially be appointed so that two members are appointed by the governor for terms of one year and two members for a term of two years.

Montgomery J. O'Connor Jr.
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dir. O'Connor
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

APPROVED: *Thomas P. Salmons*
Governor
April 5, 1976