

1 S.107

2 Introduced by Senator Giard

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Crimes; cruelty to animals; tail docking; horses; bovine

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to prohibit tail docking on a horse or
7 bovine unless performed by a veterinarian for medical purposes.

8 An act relating to docking the tail of a horse or a bovine

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

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

11 § 351. DEFINITIONS

12 * * *

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

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

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

18 § 367. TAIL DOCKING OF HORSE OR BOVINE

19 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, no person shall:

20 (1) Perform a tail docking procedure on a horse or bovine.

1 (2) Import a horse or bovine with a docked tail into the state.

2 (3) Sever the muscle or tendon of a horse's tail.

3 (4) Break the tail of a horse.

4 (b) Subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to a person who performs a
5 tail docking on a horse or bovine or performs a tail muscle or tendon severing
6 or tail breaking procedure on a horse where the procedure is necessary to
7 relieve pain or save the life of a horse or bovine, provided that the procedure is
8 performed:

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

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

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

12 (c) A person who violates this section shall be imprisoned not more than
13 two years or fined not more than \$2,000.00, or both.

14 (d) Enforcement actions for violations of this section shall not require
15 consultation with the secretary of agriculture, food and markets pursuant to
16 13 V.S.A. § 354(a).

17 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

18 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.