

CONFIDENTIAL
LEGISLATIVE BILL REVIEW FORM: 2016

Bill Number: S.224 Name of Bill: An act relating to warranty obligations of equipment dealers and suppliers

Agency/ Dept: Agriculture Author of Bill Review: Diane Bothfeld

Date of Bill Review: 5/19/2016 Related Bills and Key Players _____

Status of Bill: (check one): ☐ Upon Introduction ☐ As passed by 1st body ☒ As passed by both

Recommended Position:

☐ Support ☐ Oppose ☒ Remain Neutral ☐ Support with modifications identified in #8 below

Analysis of Bill

1. Summary of bill and issue it addresses. *Describe what the bill is intended to accomplish and why.*

This bill proposes to clarify the warranty obligations of manufacturers, suppliers, and dealers with respect to equipment and machinery dealerships.

It appears to clarify in detail the relationship between suppliers of equipment and the dealers located in VT of the said equipment. Inventory, warrantees and the ability of dealers to have more than one supplier of equipment are all addressed. It appears that the agreements between suppliers and dealers may have changed or become more complex and this bill provide specific clarification of this relationship and its possible dissolution.

2. Is there a need for this bill? *Please explain why or why not.*

The Agency of Agriculture did not track this bill during the session. With this level of detail there must be an issue between suppliers and dealers regarding inventory and warrantees. I have not heard of any issues or the need for this legislation from the agricultural community.

3. What are likely to be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for this Department?

There are no implications for the Agency of Agriculture. It is not clear from the Bill what agency is responsible to monitoring the law.

4. What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for other departments in state government, and what is likely to be their perspective on it?

Unknown

5. What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for others, and what is likely to be their perspective on it? (for example, public, municipalities, organizations, business, regulated entities, etc)

It seems important to have this relationship between suppliers and dealers clarified surrounding equipment, ATVS and other items. With the clarifications – dealers of equipment seem to have greater protections on inventory and the warrantee protections should assist the Vermonters who purchase this equipment.

6. Other Stakeholders:

Unknown

6.1 Who else is likely to support the proposal and why?

Farmers and land owners who purchase equipment

6.2 Who else is likely to oppose the proposal and why?

Equipment suppliers

7. Rationale for recommendation: *Justify recommendation stated above.*

I do not have enough background on the need for the bill – The Agency of Agriculture is neutral on this bill.

8. Specific modifications that would be needed to recommend support of this bill: *Not meant to rewrite bill, but rather, an opportunity to identify simple modifications that would change recommended position.*

None

9. Will this bill create a new board or commission AND/OR add or remove appointees to an existing one? If so, which one and how many?

NO

Secretary/Commissioner has reviewed this document: _____ **Date:** _____