

Federal court upholds Vermont GMO labeling law while case continues

A Vermont law that could make the state the first in the country to require labeling of genetically modified food has been allowed by a federal judge to stand for now despite opposition by food industry groups.

U.S. District Court Judge Christina Reiss in Burlington ruled against the Grocery Manufacturers' Association and other industry groups in their request for a preliminary order to block the law from going into effect as scheduled on July 1, 2016.

The judge partially granted and partially denied the state's motion to dismiss the industry lawsuit, meaning the case is likely to go to trial.

Vermont Attorney General William Sorrell, whose office finalized rules to implement the law on April 17, said in an interview, "There's a lot of good news in this decision for us and for the heart and soul of the labeling law."

The Grocery Manufacturers Association said it was pleased the court "found us likely to succeed on several of our claims" but was disappointed at the denial of its request for a preliminary injunction.

"Manufacturers are being harmed, and they are being harmed now," the association said in a statement. "Act 120 is unconstitutional and imposes burdensome new speech requirements on food manufacturers and retailers."

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis. Read full, original post: Vermont law on GMO food to stand, for now