



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE
Joint Fiscal Office

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Fiscal Note

May 12, 2023

Ted Barnett

H.472 (Act 73) – An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects

As passed by the General Assembly¹

Bill Summary

This bill would make miscellaneous changes to agricultural subjects. It would:

- Repeal the fees for branding cattle
- Include growing media used in lieu of soil in the definition of “soil amendment”
- Require that landscapers who install nursery stock acquire nursery dealer licenses
- Extend the date of repeal of the current Sales and Use tax exemption for advanced wood boilers from July 1, 2023 to July 1, 2024

Fiscal Impact

The provisions in this bill have a *de minimis* on Special Fund (branding and licensing fees) and Education Fund (Sales and Use tax exemption) revenues. The current Sales and Use tax exemption for advanced wood boilers costs between \$36,000 and \$60,000 in forgone tax revenue to the Education Fund annually. This cost is based on an estimated 40 systems installed per year at an equipment cost of \$15,000 to \$25,000 per system.^{2,3} This cost represents less than 0.01% of all Education Fund revenues. Because of this, JFO expects the extension will continue to have a *de minimis* effect on tax rates. Note that this Sales tax exemption is also included in H.471 as proposed to be amended by the Senate Committee on Finance.⁴

¹ <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2024/Docs/BILLS/H-0472/H-0472%20As%20Passed%20by%20Both%20House%20and%20Senate%20Official.pdf>

² <https://fpr.vermont.gov/woodenergy/rebates>

³ https://publicservice.vermont.gov/sites/dps/files/documents/Renewable_Energy/CEDF/Reports/AWH%20Baseline%20Report%20FINAL.pdf

⁴ [https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2024/WorkGroups/Senate%20Finance/Bills/H.471/Drafts,%20Amendments,%20and%20Legal%20Documents/H.471~Abby%20Shepard~Senate%20Committee%20on%20Finance%20Committee%20Report%20\(6-0-1\)~5-11-2023.pdf](https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2024/WorkGroups/Senate%20Finance/Bills/H.471/Drafts,%20Amendments,%20and%20Legal%20Documents/H.471~Abby%20Shepard~Senate%20Committee%20on%20Finance%20Committee%20Report%20(6-0-1)~5-11-2023.pdf)