



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE
Joint Fiscal Office

1 Baldwin Street • Montpelier, VT 05633-5701 • (802) 828-2295 • <https://jfo.vermont.gov>

Fiscal Note

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Ted Barnett, Fiscal Analyst

S.301 – An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects

As recommended by the House Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry, Draft 1.2

Bill Summary

This bill would make various changes to agricultural regulations, including:

- Removing a requirement for the Vermont Seeding and Filter Strip Program
- Adjusting the types of businesses that pay public warehouse and milk handler fees
- Restricting the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides
- Amending Vermont Agricultural Credit Corporation (VACC) statute to add forest product businesses and farm housing as eligible recipients of credit
- Prohibiting the sale of dogs, cats, and wolf-hybrids by unlicensed pet shops

Fiscal Impact

The bill would have two fiscal impacts. First, removing the requirement that farms in the Vermont Seeding and Filter Strip program maintain eligible acreage for 10 years could allow more farms to receive an incentive from the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFM), though any incentives would be contained in the agency's existing annual Clean Water Fund appropriation. In fiscal year 2022, the program granted approximately \$9,000 in CWF dollars to farms.¹

Second, the bill would create a negligible Special Fund revenue impact from provisions related to warehouse and milk handler fees. According to information from AAFM an additional 4 businesses may need a \$125 public warehouse license due to proposed changes that would expand the license from fruit to produce storage. There would also be three businesses that currently have a public warehouse license and a milk handler license that would only need the milk handler license under the proposed language. The scope of these changes would not be large enough to significantly impact associated AAFM Special Funds.

Other changes do not have a revenue impact. Changing regulations on second generation anticoagulant rodenticides would require Class B pesticide dealers to register as Class A dealers, but the fee amount between these two classes is the same. The Vermont Agricultural Credit Corporation does not currently receive state funds. The provisions relating to the prohibition on the sale of dog or wolf-hybrids likely would not affect the number of licensed pet shops, as pet shops need a license for the sale of any type of animal.

¹https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/agriculture/files/documents/2023_VAAFMM_WQ_Annual_Report_on_Financial_and_Technical_Assistance.pdf