



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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Nolan Langweil, Principal Fiscal Analyst

H.536 – An act relating to toxic heavy metals in baby food products

As recommended by the House Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry, Draft 4.1¹

Bill Summary

The bill would prohibit the sale and distribution of baby food product in the state that contains a toxic heavy metal. It also includes labeling requirements and regular laboratory testing of baby food products for toxic heavy metals.

Fiscal Impact

While the Office of Attorney General would be responsible for enforcement, the bill would place responsibilities for assessing and investigating noncompliance with the Vermont Department of Health (VDH). According to VDH, it would need additional staff – approximately one full-time equivalent (FTE) environmental inspector position – to track and investigate complaints and conduct field investigations for noncompliance. The annualized cost of an FTE, including salary, fringe benefits, and other costs associated with the position, could be as much as \$185,000. There are no appropriations or fees included in the bill.

¹ *The Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) is a nonpartisan legislative office dedicated to producing unbiased fiscal analysis – this fiscal note is meant to provide information for legislative consideration, not to provide policy recommendations. The full fiscal note history is available on the fiscal tab of the bill page on the General Assembly website and can be pulled up through a bill number search on the JFO page.*