



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE  
**Joint Fiscal Office**

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## Fiscal Note

April 2, 2026

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### **Act 78 (S.60) – An act relating to establishing the Farm and Forestry Operations Security Special Fund to provide payments for farm losses due to weather conditions**

As enacted<sup>1,2</sup>

#### **Bill Summary**

**T**his bill would create the Farm Security and Forestry Operations Security Special Fund, which would provide payments for up to 50 percent of unreimbursed, uninsured or otherwise uncovered farm and forestry operation losses due to eligible weather conditions. Individual payments would be capped at an annual amount of \$150,000 or no more than 5 percent of the balance of the Fund at the beginning of each fiscal year. The bill would also create the Farm and Forestry Operations Security Special Fund Review Board, which would review grant applications and make recommendations as to which applicants should receive assistance from the Fund. The Secretary of Agriculture would be responsible for establishing award criteria and verifying the occurrence of eligible weather events and would be able to pay reasonable administrative expenses from the Fund.

#### **Fiscal Impact**

The bill would take effect on July 1, 2026; however, the duty to implement the grant program that would be created by the bill is contingent on an appropriation in fiscal year 2027 or subsequent fiscal years.

The Farm Security and Forestry Operations Security Special Fund has no dedicated revenue source. It would consist of funds transferred by the General Assembly, funds from public and private sources that the Secretary accepts for the Fund, and funds from federal government aid for State support of farmers suffering income loss due to various weather conditions. Balances in the Fund at the end of any fiscal year would carry forward and remain in the Fund.

The five private sector members of the Farm and Forestry Operations Security Special Fund Review Board would be entitled to per diem compensation and expense reimbursement from the Fund at an estimated cost of approximately \$930 per meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> *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.*

<sup>2</sup> *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.*