

Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

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FISCAL NOTE

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H.695 – An Act Relating to Establishing a Product Stewardship Program for Primary Batteries (as passed by the House Committee on Natural Resources and Energy)

Summary: This bill would require producers of primary batteries to develop, operate, and finance a plan for the collection and recycling of primary batteries. Producers would be required to produce, individually or as part of a stewardship organization, primary battery stewardship plans that provide for the collection of batteries from consumers at no cost, as well as recycling or disposition. The Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) would oversee the review, approval and implementation of these plans.

Producers that do not submit a plan, or form a stewardship organization, would be prohibited from selling batteries in Vermont and sellers would be prohibited from selling batteries made by producers that have not submitted a plan. Producers, or Stewardship Organizations, who collect batteries under a stewardship plan would be authorized to seek reimbursement from primary and rechargeable battery producers for costs of collecting batteries not listed under the collecting producer's plan.

Fiscal Impact: A primary battery producer or primary battery stewardship organization would be required to pay an annual fee of \$15,000 for operation under an approved primary battery stewardship plan. ANR estimates that primary battery producers would form 1 to 2 stewardship organizations for the purposes of creating a primary battery stewardship plan, but cautions that because there is not a precedent for this type of program the actual number of plans would be difficult to predict. This arrangement would raise approximately \$15,000 to \$30,000 per year, which would be directed to the Environmental Permit Fund.