

Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

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FISCAL NOTE

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H.869 – An Act Relating to Miscellaneous Agricultural Subjects

(as passed by the House Committee on Agriculture and Forest Products)

Summary

This bill proposes to make amendments to multiple agricultural subjects. The bill would repeal the apple marketing board. The bill also would require commercial pesticide applicators to carry at least \$1,000,000.00 in liability insurance. In addition, the bill amends the requirements for the licensing of and reporting by milk handlers in the State. The bill would require persons who sell dairy equipment to be registered with the State. The bill would amend the requirements for the calibration of bulk milk tanks. The bill also would repeal the exemptions from the weights and measures licensing fees.

Fiscal Impacts

Sec. 2: The bill proposes to transfer funds currently remaining in the Apple Marketing Board Special Fund to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for disbursement to the Vermont Tree Growers Association for promoting and marketing Vermont's fruit tree sector. Currently, there is a balance of \$8,235.46 in this fund. There would be no General Fund impact from this provision.

Sec. 3: The bill proposes to provide grant awards for capital equipment to larval control programs within mosquito control districts at up to 75% of the total equipment costs at the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets. There are currently three mosquito control districts in Vermont. All three of these districts are small and, as any funding would be at the discretion of the Secretary, the Agency estimates that it can cover any additional costs from its current budget.

Sec. 8: The statute currently requires any commercial enterprise that installs or repairs milking or dairy processing equipment to register for a technician license with the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. The bill proposes to extend the licensing requirement to enterprises that sell this equipment and expands the list of equipment to include milking cooling and storage products. The Agency is anticipating that with the growth in online sales there will be more dairy equipment sold but not installed by commercial enterprises, and the Agency wants to ensure that these enterprises are regulated. Fees for technician licenses are \$100, which go into a special fund. The Agency estimates that there would be very few additional enterprises required to register under this provision.

Sec. 11: The bill proposes to remove two exemptions from the requirement for persons who operate a commercial weighing and measuring device in Vermont to obtain a license. The first exemption is for those who operate a commercial scale in a facility with less than 2,000 square feet of floor space. The second exemption is for those persons who operate three or fewer motor fuel dispensers. Removing these two exemptions would raise the following revenue for the Weights and Measures Testing Fund:

Facilities of less than 2,000 square feet ¹ :	\$2,100
Facilities with 3 or fewer motor fuel meters ² :	<u>\$675</u>
	\$2,765

¹ 186 locations with 210 scales at a license fee of \$10 per scale.

² 45 locations with 60 meters at a license fee of \$15 per meter