

**To:** Representative Emilie Kornheiser, Chair House Committee Ways and Means  
Senator Ann Cummings, Chair Senate Committee on Finance

**From:** Stephanie Smith, Deputy Director, Public Health and Agricultural Resource Management

**Date:** December 15, 2024

**RE:** [Act 160](#), Sec. 4a. REPORT ON FEE FOR ELECTRONIC PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION

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The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets respectfully submits this report on the Agency's efforts to implement an on-line pesticide certification examination option that includes a proposed fee to administer proctored online pesticide exams in accordance with Act 160 of 2024.

The Agency issued a Request for Proposals to solicit bids to provide proctored online pesticide certification examinations. The State currently administers between 800-900 in-person pesticide certification exams annually in multiple locations. There are 25 different exams, and all exams are multiple choice and may include Vermont Rule for the Control of Pesticides and pesticide label comprehension, and pest identification. The Request for Proposals specified that the administration of the online pesticide certification exams must be provided at *no cost to the State*, and that each examinee submits a fee for the services to the service provider. The Agency will continue to provide a no cost in-person option for certification.

The Agency received a single bid where the cost for each exam attempt will be sixty dollars (\$60), with the potential to be reduced to fifty dollars (\$50) per attempt in a subsequent year based on the frequency with which the service is used by prospective Vermont pesticide applicators and dealers. The Agency is pursuing steps in response to receiving this bid.

The Agency will proceed to implement the on-line pesticide certification examination option through a contract with the successful bidder. It is anticipated that this option will become available to applicants in the first quarter of 2025.

The Agency recommends that when the Agency contracts with a vendor who provides proctored online exam service, the vendor may either directly charge applicants a "reasonable fee" based on the contractor's agreement with the Agency. Or if in the future the Agency collects the fee for the service in order to fund a contractor's efforts, it proposes a fee of "up to \$100". This will provide flexibility to contract for these services and potential costs to the Agency.

Please contact me at [stephanie.smith@vermont.gov](mailto:stephanie.smith@vermont.gov) if additional information is needed.