
This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

Act No. 59 (H.484). An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects

Subjects: Agriculture; fertilizer; beneficial substances; waste pesticide collection; covered house hazardous products; paint products; miscellaneous subjects

This act amends multiple laws related to agricultural or environmental subjects. The act amends current statute related to regulation of fertilizers, plant amendments, and soil amendments to conform State law to national standards for beneficial substances. The act also increases the annual pesticide product registration fee by \$50.00. The revenue from the increased fee will be used to pay the costs of a collection program for obsolete and unwanted pesticides. In addition, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets is required to study options for sustainable funding sources to reimburse solid waste management entities for all costs associated with collection and disposal of unwanted or obsolete pesticides and shall recommend to the General Assembly a funding mechanism to cover all costs associated with collecting unwanted pesticides through municipal collection programs.

The act provides that the Rutland County Agricultural Society, Inc. (State Fair) shall continue to be required to obtain the three-acre stormwater operating permit, but the State Fair shall not be required to pay a stormwater impact fee or complete an offset for those reductions it cannot complete because of site constraints. The act also provides that the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation rule entitled “Intent to Cut Notification Emergency Rules, Standards and Procedures” shall be deemed to have continued in full force and effect and remained valid on and after July 1, 2018, despite not being published in the Vermont Code of Rules as of July 1, 2018.

The act amends the Household Hazardous Waste Producer Responsibility Program to clarify that it does not include paint products. The act amends the Program to allow the stewardship organization additional time to implement a collection plan that meets the minimum requirements. The act provides that if the stewardship organization does not submit an approvable plan, the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) may issue a plan and charge the manufacturers of covered household hazardous products for the cost of the program, plus a penalty. The act also extends the date of the landfill disposal ban on covered household hazardous products by a year and provides ANR with authority to grant variances to the requirements for municipal household hazardous waste collection events.

The act amends the existing extended producer responsibility (EPR) program for architectural paint to expand its scope to include paint products, which includes aerosol coating products, coating related products, and nonindustrial coatings. The scope of the program was expanded to clarify that the EPR program for paint and not the EPR program for covered household hazardous products is responsible for the collection and management of the expanded list of paint products. The act also repeals the authority of

ANR to review and approve the paint assessment fee on paint products sold at retail and instead establishes the paint assessment fees in statute.

The act also extends the deadlines by one year for the required construction of an efficiency project at the baseload power plant.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 11, 2025