



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE
Joint Fiscal Office

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Fiscal Note

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H.484 – An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects

As introduced by the House Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry^{1,i}

Bill Summary

This bill proposes amendments to various agricultural statutes. As introduced, the bill’s proposed amendments to registration requirements for beneficial agricultural substances could have a de minimis impact on State revenues.

Section 1: Registration requirements for beneficial agricultural substances

Under current law, distributors of fertilizer and other substances that promote plant growth, such as soil amendments and plant biostimulants, must register their products annually with the Secretary of Agriculture, Food, and Markets. Distributors pay an annual \$85 registration fee per product to do so. Registration fees are deposited to the “AF&M – Feed Seeds & Fertilizer” special fund, the use of which is restricted to State agricultural programs.

This bill introduces a definition of “beneficial substances” to statute. This is a largely technical change that is meant to align Vermont with national standards for product definition and labeling to promote the uniform regulation of these substances. Most products captured by this definition are non-fertilizer substances that are beneficial to plant growth, such as soil amendments and biostimulants, that are already registered and distributed in Vermont. This bill updates statutory language to clarify that these substances, while placed under a new definition, continue to fall under existing registration requirements.

If this bill results in increased product registrations (and \$85 fees paid to the State), it could increase State revenue. However, the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAF&M) is aware of only a few products registered in other states that might be newly subject to this bill’s registration requirements. Given that AAF&M already registers several thousand products annually, it does not expect a significant increase in registrations or revenue from this bill. Any fiscal impact is expected to be minimal, likely under \$1,000 annually.

ⁱ The full fiscal note history is available on the fiscal tab of the bill page on the General Assembly website and can be accessed through a bill number search on the JFO page.

¹ 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.