



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE
Joint Fiscal Office

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Fiscal Note

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H.632 – An act relating to miscellaneous environmental amendments

As recommended by the House Committee on the Environment, Draft 5.1¹

Bill Summary

The bill would make various changes to environmental programs and regulations including:

- *Section 1*: extending by one year from July 1, 2026 to July 1, 2027 the requirement to complete an assessment of end-of-cycle management of certain battery types;
- *Sections 4-7*: extending various deadlines for mapping, rulemaking, and permitting or river corridors required by Act 121 (2024);
- *Sections 10-15*: making various changes to the State Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) permit program; and
- *Section 21*: changing eligibility requirements for the Automotive Emissions Repair Assistance Program (AERAP).

Fiscal Impact

This bill would have a minimal fiscal impact. The primary impact would be from the extension of deadlines for State permitting processes. Act 121 tasked the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) with creating a permit program for development that occurs in mapped river corridors by January 1, 2028. The bill would change this date to July 1, 2029. As such, fee revenue would start in fiscal year 2030 instead start of fiscal year 2029.

This bill would also extend the deadline for creating a new CAFO General Permit from December 15, 2025 to September 1, 2027. This change would not adjust the process of shifting responsibilities for regulation of large and medium feeding operations from the Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets to ANR. The fiscal impact of this depends on the final structure of the CAFO General Permit, which has not been developed.

Finally, eligibility requirements in AERAP (from being based on Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) qualification to federal poverty level) may expand the potential use of existing State resources for the program. However, recent take-up of the program has been limited, and the change in eligibility requirements is minor, so the expected change is accordingly small.

¹The full fiscal note history is available on the fiscal tab of the bill page on the General Assembly website and can be pulled up through a bill number search on the JFO page.

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