



# VERMONT LEGISLATIVE Joint Fiscal Office

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## Fiscal Note

May 20, 2025

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### **H.319 – An act relating to miscellaneous environmental subjects**

**As recommended by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy<sup>1,i</sup>**

#### **Bill Summary**

**T**his bill proposes amendments to various environmental statutes. Sections of the bill pertaining to collection and disposal programs for household hazardous waste and paint products and the creation of a Chloride Contamination Reduction Program in the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) could have a fiscal impact on State revenue.

#### **Fiscal Impact**

The following sections of the bill could have fiscal impacts.

#### **Section 7: Agency of Natural Resources Administration of Household Hazardous Waste Collection Plans**

Section 7 would require the Secretary of Natural Resources to adopt and administer certain household hazardous waste collection plans if manufacturers fail to meet their obligations to submit these plans to the State under 10 V.S.A. § 7183 by July 1, 2025. If manufacturers comply by the deadline, ANR would not be required to take this action.

Under current law, manufacturers must run collection programs for specified household hazardous waste, with ANR overseeing and approving their plans. The proposed language in this section would act as a contingency: if manufacturers do not submit their required plans by July 1, 2025, ANR must implement one on their behalf. The State would recover its costs by charging each manufacturer a prorated share of plan administration and oversight costs, plus an additional charge equal to 10% of the plan's total cost. This charge would be deposited in the Solid Waste Management Account within the Waste Management Assistance Fund to support pollution prevention and hazardous waste reduction grants for municipalities and small businesses.

Based on information provided by ANR, the fiscal impact of this section on Solid Waste Management Account revenue is likely de minimis. ANR expects the potential imposition of a 10% charge would incentivize full manufacturer compliance, meaning it is unlikely to be triggered. To the extent this expectation holds, no additional State revenue or costs will be generated by this provision in fiscal year 2026 or beyond.

#### **Section 10: Paint Product Stewardship Program**

This section would amend requirements under Vermont's Paint Stewardship Program, which provides

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

environmentally sound disposal of postconsumer architectural paint free of charge to the individual disposing of the product.

Under current law, architectural paint cannot be sold in the State unless its producer or a nonprofit stewardship organization acting on its behalf implements a Paint Stewardship Program plan approved by the Secretary of Natural Resources. Vermont's Paint Stewardship Program is run by PaintCare, a nonprofit stewardship organization. The costs incurred by PaintCare to transport and process postconsumer paint are covered by a paint stewardship assessment fee paid by the producer, which is passed on to consumers as an addition to the product's purchase price.<sup>2</sup>

As recommended by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, this bill would make several changes to the Paint Stewardship Program:

- Change how the paint stewardship assessment for architectural paint is set from approval by the Secretary of Natural Resources to specification in statute. The bill would codify the existing stewardship assessment fee for architectural paint into law:
  - \$0 for each half pint or smaller;
  - \$0.65 for amounts greater than a half pint but less than one gallon;
  - \$1.35 for amounts greater than one gallon but less than two; and
  - \$2.45 for amounts greater than one gallon but less than five.
- Rename the Paint Stewardship Program the “Paint Product Stewardship Program” (Program) and expand its requirements to producers of aerosol coating products, coating-related products, and nonindustrial coatings.

### Section 11: Implementation; Fee Report

As recommended by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, the bill would also require the Secretary of Natural Resources to recommend stewardship assessment fees for architectural paint and other paint products to the committees of jurisdiction by December 15, 2025. The new Program requirements for non-architectural paint products would then take effect on July 1, 2026.

The bill would also require producers of aerosol coating products, coating-related products, and nonindustrial coatings to do the following:

- Submit a stewardship plan for the expanded Program to the Secretary by July 1, 2026;
- Report annually to the Secretary on Program operation beginning on March 1, 2027

Aerosol coating products, coating-related products, and nonindustrial coatings are not currently subject to a stewardship assessment fee. Once the expanded Program requirements take effect, consumers would pay a paint product stewardship assessment fee on the purchase of these products. The amount of this assessment fee would be set by the General Assembly after receipt of the Secretary's fee report. This fee would increase the purchase price that is subject to sales tax, thus increasing the sales tax collected by the State on these products.<sup>3</sup>

The amount of this increase would depend on future sales of these products and the amount of the stewardship assessment fee. For reference, the existing fee schedule on the sale of architectural paint generated approximately \$994,000 in revenue for PaintCare's Vermont program in calendar year 2024. Because stewardship assessment fees are subject to the six percent Vermont sales tax, this sum generated approximately \$60,000 in sales tax revenue over that period.

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<sup>2</sup> 10 VSA § 6672

<sup>3</sup> [Tax Department letter regarding paint stewardship assessment](#)

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**Sections 28 and 30-32: Chloride Contamination Reduction Program**

Section 28 of the bill would direct the Secretary of Natural Resources to establish the Chloride Contamination Reduction Program, which would offer voluntary training and certification for commercial salt applicators in best practices to ensure pedestrian and motorist safety while minimizing environmental damage.

The Secretary of Natural Resources would be required to adopt the program's underlying best management practices through rulemaking before July 1, 2026. These best management practices would specify various standard practices, such as how and when salt and salt alternatives are applied to minimize their transport into waters of the state, as well as program administrative and certification requirements. This section would authorize the Secretary of Natural Resources to implement the program through agency staff, a third-party vendor, or a combination thereof.

Section 30 of the bill would also direct the Secretary of Natural Resources to incorporate similar training for municipal salt applicators into the voluntary Vermont Local Roads curriculum.

Section 31 of the bill would direct the Secretary of Natural Resources to do the following by January 15, 2026:

- Solicit interest from third-party vendors in training and certifying commercial salt applicators under the Chloride Contamination Reduction Program.
- Recommend to the committees of jurisdiction a certification fee to be charged either by the State or by a third-party vendor for the certification of commercial salt applicators. Any fees charged to commercial salt applicators under the Program would then have to be approved by the General Assembly.

Section 32 of the bill would make implementation of Sections 28, 30, and 31 contingent on a General Fund appropriation for the specific purposes identified in those sections.

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<sup>i</sup> 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.