Senate

General Assembly

File No. 671

January Session, 2025

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1497

Senate, April 14, 2025

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. LOPES of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING PROGRAMMING AT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 22-26f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) There shall be a State Veterinarian who shall be an employee of the Department of Agriculture and shall serve as the state animal health official for the state. The Commissioner of Agriculture may designate one or more veterinarians to exercise all or part of the authority, powers and duties of the State Veterinarian. **[**in the absence of the State Veterinarian.**]** Any veterinarian designated by the commissioner pursuant to this subsection shall meet the requirements of subsection (b) of this section. Any emergency or temporary appointments made pursuant to this subsection shall be utilized within existing resources and be consistent with the provisions of subsection (c) of section 5-235.

Sec. 2. Section 22-111c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Each brand and grade of fertilizer shall be registered in the name of the person whose name appears on the label for such fertilizer before being distributed in this state. The application for registration shall be submitted to the commissioner on a form furnished by the commissioner and shall be accompanied by a fee of seventy-five dollars. **[**On and after January 1, 2010, said**]** Said fee shall be established by the commissioner by regulations adopted in accordance with the provisions of section 22-111j, provided such fee does not exceed seventy-five dollars. The application shall include the following information: (1) The net weight; (2) the brand and grade; (3) the guaranteed analysis; and (4) the name and address of the registrant. Upon approval of the application by the commissioner, a copy of the registration shall be furnished to the applicant. All registrations shall expire on June thirtieth of each year.

(b) A distributor shall not be required to register any fertilizer which is already registered under this chapter by another person, provided the label for such exempted fertilizer does not differ in any material respect to such previously registered fertilizer.

(c) A distributor shall not be required to register fertilizer formulated according to specifications which are furnished by a consumer prior to mixing; but shall be required to label such fertilizer as provided in subsection (c) of section 22-111d.

Sec. 3. Section 22-111bb of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) No person may distribute a soil amendment unless it has been registered with the commissioner in accordance with the provisions of this section. An application for registration shall be submitted annually to the commissioner on the form furnished or approved by the commissioner and shall be accompanied by a fee established by the Commissioner of Agriculture that shall not exceed seventy-five dollars.

Upon approval of the application by the commissioner, a copy of the registration shall be furnished to the applicant. Such registration shall expire on September thirtieth of the following year. Each distributor shall submit to the commissioner a copy of labels and any advertising literature for each soil amendment with the registration application.

(b) A distributor shall not be required to register any brand of soil amendment that is already registered under this section by another person, providing the label does not differ in any respect.

(c) Before registering any soil amendment, the commissioner may require evidence to substantiate the claims made for the soil amendment and proof of the value and usefulness of the soil amendment.

Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 22-341 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) The town clerk of each town shall order a sufficient number of such tags or plates from the commissioner, who shall furnish the same at **[**a cost of five cents each**]** the cost incurred to procure and distribute such tags or plates, which cost shall be paid by the town on the approval of the town clerk. **[**Any balance of the moneys received by the commissioner after deducting the cost of the tags, the expenses incidental to their distribution to the town clerks and the expenses incidental to the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter, shall be accounted for by the commissioner to the Comptroller.**]** The design and the shape of such tags or plates shall be changed each year, and such tags or plates for each year shall be of uniform design and material throughout the state. Any dog found roaming at large upon any public highway or common or upon the premises of any person other than its owner, without a tag as provided in this section, shall be presumed to be an unlicensed dog.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	*from passage*	22-26f(a)
Sec. 2	*from passage*	22-111c
Sec. 3	*from passage*	22-111bb
Sec. 4	*from passage*	22-341(b)

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 $	FY 27 $
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 26 $	FY 27 $
All Municipalities	Cost	Minimal	Minimal

Explanation

The bill makes a variety of changes related to the Department of Agriculture (DoAg).

The bill results in a minimal revenue gain to the resources of the General Fund, beginning in FY 26, associated with a fee for soil amendment registrations. The bill sets the fee at an amount to be determined by the DoAg commissioner, up to $75. It is estimated that there would be less than 300 soil registrations annually, resulting in a minimal revenue gain.

Additionally, the bill results in a minimal cost to municipalities. The bill allows the DoAg commissioner to charge municipalities the actual cost to obtain and distribute dog tags, rather than five cents per tag (current law). It is estimated that the actual cost for this service is seven cents per tag, a two-cent increase. The increased cost to municipalities is anticipated to be minimal.

The bill makes other procedural and technical changes that are not

anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of soil amendment registrations and the actual cost to obtain and distribute dog tags.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 1497

AN ACT CONCERNING PROGRAMMING AT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

SUMMARY

This bill makes a number of unrelated changes to statutes related to the Department of Agriculture (DoAg).

First, it allows the DoAg commissioner to temporarily appoint veterinarians to perform the state veterinarian's duties at any time, instead of just in the state veterinarian's absence as under current law. The bill requires temporarily appointed veterinarians to be used (1) within existing resources and (2) for up to two months.

Next, the bill caps the annual fertilizer registration fee at $75. By law, each brand and grade of fertilizer must be registered with DoAg before it can be distributed in the state. Registrations expire annually on June 30. The law allows the DoAg commissioner to set the fee by regulation.

The bill also requires annual soil amendment registrations to be accompanied by a fee that the DoAg commissioner may set, up to $75. By law, soil amendments must be registered with DoAg before being distributed. Registrations expire annually on September 30.

Lastly, the bill allows the DoAg commissioner to charge municipalities the actual cost incurred to obtain and distribute dog tags, rather than five cents per tag as under current law. (By law, dog owners must license their dogs with and get a dog tag from their town clerk, and town clerks must order the necessary number of dog tags from the DoAg commissioner.) Relatedly, the bill eliminates the requirement for the commissioner to account to the comptroller for any balance remaining after deducting the cost of obtaining and distributing the tags

from the amount municipalities paid.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 23 Nay 10 (03/24/2025)