



# 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:

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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  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

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

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 Section 22-111c of the general statutes is repealed and the  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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<p>This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:</p>
--

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	22-26f(a)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	22-111c
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	22-111bb
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	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)