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## 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)