

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

Legislative Office Building, Room 5200
Hartford, CT 06106 ◊ (860) 240-0200
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa>

sSB-148

AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO AQUACULTURE-RELATED STATUTES.

As Amended by Senate "A" (LCO 5042)

Senate Calendar No.: 73

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Department of Agriculture	GF - Cost	115,808	115,808
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	44,249	44,249
Department of Agriculture	GF - Cost	Significant	Significant
Department of Agriculture	GF - Savings	Less than 1,000	Less than 1,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None.

Explanation

The bill makes changes to various Agricultural related programs.

Section 1 establishes the Dairy Modernization Grant Program within the Department of Agriculture (DoAg). The DoAg does not currently have staff or expertise to establish and administer a new grant program. DoAg will require one new Grant and Contract Specialist with an annual salary of \$105,808 and corresponding fringe benefits of \$44,249. Additionally, DoAg will require \$10,000 annually for licensing and software updates to manage the data associated with the new program.

It is unclear how the eligible projects will be funded, as DoAg does

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.82% of payroll in FY 27.

not have funds available for infrastructure and operational upgrade projects. This could result in a significant cost to the state, the scope of the costs will be dependent on the number and corresponding costs of eligible projects. It is estimated that there are approximately 81 eligible milk producers in Connecticut.

Section 2 makes a clarifying change to the farm investment tax credit program which is not anticipated to result in any fiscal impact.

Section 3 establishes the Dairy Farming Sustainability Working Group, which does not result in a fiscal impact as the working group has the staff and expertise necessary to complete the requirements contained in the bill.

Section 4 requires the Office of Policy and Management to reinstate land use values for forest land. This does not result in a fiscal impact to the state or municipalities as it codifies current practice.

Section 5 requires the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) to conduct a study of natural gas rates, which does not result in a fiscal impact as PURA has the staff and expertise necessary to complete the study.

Section 6 removes the cap of twenty thousand dollars currently in place for development rights and will not have a municipal impact.

Section 7 changes the notice requirements for areas that are closed to shellfishing and no longer requires notices to be posted in local newspapers. This will result in a minimal savings of less than \$1,000 annually, to DoAg.

Sections 8 - 22 makes various changes to the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, which conforms current practice to law and does not result in a fiscal impact.

Senate "A" strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact replacing it with the fiscal impact described above.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation, savings incurred, and the number and scope of dairy modernization projects.

The preceding Fiscal Impact statement is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does 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.