

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-6503

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SITING OF ANAEROBIC DIGESTION FACILITIES ON FARMS.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Potential Cost	105,991	109,171
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Potential Cost	42,714	43,996

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill makes changes in the law's siting and permitting exemption for on-farm anaerobic digestion (AD) facilities.

Current law exempts certain AD facilities from the requirement that operators obtain a solid waste facilities permit from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). Instead, the bill requires DEEP to approve or deny AD facilities permits application within 90 days. This may result in costs to DEEP of \$105,991 in FY 22 and \$109,171 in FY 23 to hire an Environmental Analyst I position, plus fringe benefits of \$42,714 in FY 22 and \$43,996 in FY 23 to perform initial determinations within the expedited timeframe specified in the bill, to the extent additional AD facility permits are received by DEEP

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 41.3% of payroll in FY 22 and FY 23.

in the upcoming biennium.

The agency currently employs eight full-time staff who work, on average, 170 days over a 12-18-month period to process solid waste facility-specific permits.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and the number of AD permits received.