

Multiple Agency Fiscal Note Summary

Bill Number: 5484 SB	Title: Food/environmental steward.
-----------------------------	-------------------------------------------

Estimated Cash Receipts

NONE

Agency Name	2023-25		2025-27		2027-29	
	GF- State	Total	GF- State	Total	GF- State	Total
Local Gov. Courts						
Loc School dist-SPI						
Local Gov. Other	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.					
Local Gov. Total						

Estimated Operating Expenditures

Agency Name	2023-25				2025-27				2027-29			
	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total
Washington State University	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
State Conservation Commission	2.3	2,173,616	2,173,616	2,173,616	2.3	2,173,616	2,173,616	2,173,616	2.3	2,173,616	2,173,616	2,173,616
Department of Fish and Wildlife	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
Department of Natural Resources	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
Department of Agriculture	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
Total \$	2.3	2,173,616	2,173,616	2,173,616	2.3	2,173,616	2,173,616	2,173,616	2.3	2,173,616	2,173,616	2,173,616

Agency Name	2023-25			2025-27			2027-29		
	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total
Local Gov. Courts									
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Expenditures

Agency Name	2023-25			2025-27			2027-29		
	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total
Washington State University	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
State Conservation Commission	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Department of Fish and Wildlife	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Department of Natural Resources	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Department of Agriculture	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Total \$	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0

Agency Name	2023-25			2025-27			2027-29		
	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total
Local Gov. Courts									
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Breakout

Prepared by: Matthew Hunter, OFM	Phone: (360) 529-7078	Date Published: Final 2/ 7/2023
-----------------------------------------	---------------------------------	-------------------------------------------

Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 5484 SB	Title: Food/environmental steward.	Agency: 365-Washington State University
-----------------------------	-------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------

Part I: Estimates

No Fiscal Impact

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

NONE

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.
- If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.
- Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact: Jeff Olsen	Phone: 360-786-7428	Date: 02/01/2023
Agency Preparation: Anne-Lise Brooks	Phone: 509-335-8815	Date: 02/06/2023
Agency Approval: Chris Jones	Phone: 509-335-9682	Date: 02/06/2023
OFM Review: Ramona Nabors	Phone: (360) 742-8948	Date: 02/07/2023

Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

Senate Bill 5484 relates to supporting Washington's food production system by providing technical assistance in support of improved voluntary environmental stewardship through the "Washington state conservation commission".

Washington State University does not expect any fiscal impact due to this bill.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

NONE

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA.*

NONE

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.

Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 5484 SB	Title: Food/environmental steward.	Agency: 471-State Conservation Commission
-----------------------------	-------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------

Part I: Estimates

No Fiscal Impact

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
FTE Staff Years	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
Account					
General Fund-State 001-1	1,086,808	1,086,808	2,173,616	2,173,616	2,173,616
Total \$	1,086,808	1,086,808	2,173,616	2,173,616	2,173,616

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.
- If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.
- Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact: Jeff Olsen	Phone: 360-786-7428	Date: 02/01/2023
Agency Preparation: Karla Heinitz	Phone: 360-878-4666	Date: 02/06/2023
Agency Approval: Ron Shultz	Phone: 360-790-5994	Date: 02/06/2023
OFM Review: Matthew Hunter	Phone: (360) 529-7078	Date: 02/06/2023

Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

Section 2 of the bill adds new definitions for sustainable farms and fields advisors, climate-smart practices, cooperating areas, and sustainable farms and fields plans in RCW 89.08.610.

Section 3 of the bill adds a new section to 89.08 RCW directing the Commission to develop a network of sustainable farms and fields advisors where groups of conservation districts (CDs) will hire, host, and share the services of sustainable farms and fields advisors.

The advisors will provide consultations and develop sustainable farms and fields plans for interested farmers and food processors to help them reduce their carbon footprint by increasing energy efficiency, utilizing more green energy, sequestering carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The advisors will also inform CDs, farmers, and food processors about local state and federal funding opportunities.

The bill establishes a new position within the Commission that is responsible for coordinating the advisors, disseminating current information about energy efficiency and climate-smart practices and funding opportunities, applying for grants, writing progress reports, and other duties as needed.

Section 4 of the bill clarifies language under RCW 89.08.615 about fundable activities under the sustainable farms and fields grant program including the inclusion of practices that increase energy efficiency and utilization of green energy.

Section 5 adds accomplishments of the sustainable farms and field advisors in the biennial reports the SCC submits to the legislature and Governor's office.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

We assume that establishing and coordinating a statewide network of SFF advisors that conservation districts would hire, host, and share the services of would require the SCC to:

- Hire an SFF Coordinator (Program Specialist 4) to coordinate the advisors, disseminate current information about energy efficiency and climate-smart practices and funding opportunities, apply for grants, write progress reports, etc. This would require an increase in our FTE count by 1.0.
- Work with conservation districts to a) establish geographic pools based on the number of SFF advisors; b) create an SFF committee for each pool, and c) identify host conservation districts
- Develop funding agreements with host conservation districts; process expense vouchers submitted by host conservation districts for SFF advisors.
- The SCC anticipates coordination and collaboration with other agencies engaged in increasing energy efficiency, green energy, and climate-smart practices on agricultural land. However, the SCC does not anticipate direct impacts to other agency activities.

We anticipate the addition of SFF Advisors would have the following fiscal impact:

- SCC SFF Coordinator (Program Specialist 4): \$85,342 for salary + benefits (s/b) + \$5K annual travel expenses totaling \$90,342.
- Eight SFF Advisors (Environmental Specialist 5) @ \$98,901 salary + benefits (s/b) + \$12K travel expenses and laptop/phone and other goods per Advisor totaling \$887,208.
- SCC would need up to 5% of funding to fiscally administer and oversee the program; this is reflected in the Salaries and Benefits of 0.2 FTE of a Fiscal Analyst 3 (Range 50, Step J) and .1 FTE of a Management Analyst 5 (Range 64, Step L).

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

Account	Account Title	Type	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
001-1	General Fund	State	1,086,808	1,086,808	2,173,616	2,173,616	2,173,616
Total \$			1,086,808	1,086,808	2,173,616	2,173,616	2,173,616

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
FTE Staff Years	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
A-Salaries and Wages	140,444	140,444	280,888	280,888	280,888
B-Employee Benefits	49,156	49,156	98,312	98,312	98,312
C-Professional Service Contracts					
E-Goods and Other Services	5,000	5,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
G-Travel	5,000	5,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
J-Capital Outlays					
M-Inter Agency/Fund Transfers					
N-Grants, Benefits & Client Services	887,208	887,208	1,774,416	1,774,416	1,774,416
P-Debt Service					
S-Interagency Reimbursements					
T-Intra-Agency Reimbursements					
9-					
Total \$	1,086,808	1,086,808	2,173,616	2,173,616	2,173,616

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *List FTEs by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals need to agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA*

Job Classification	Salary	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
Management Analyst 5, Range 64 Step L	91,524	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Natural Resource Scientist 3, Range 60 Step H	75,120	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Program Specialist 3, Range 53 Step H	63,216	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Program Specialist 4, Range 56 Step H	68,076	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total FTEs		2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.

Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 5484 SB	Title: Food/environmental steward.	Agency: 477-Department of Fish and Wildlife
-----------------------------	-------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------

Part I: Estimates

No Fiscal Impact

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

NONE

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.
- If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.
- Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact: Jeff Olsen	Phone: 360-786-7428	Date: 02/01/2023
Agency Preparation: Barbara Reichart	Phone: 3608190438	Date: 02/06/2023
Agency Approval: Barbara Reichart	Phone: 3608190438	Date: 02/06/2023
OFM Review: Matthew Hunter	Phone: (360) 529-7078	Date: 02/06/2023

Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

Section 4 states that any applications for the farms and fields grant program involving state lands leased from WDFW must receive the Department's approval.

The additional time needed for review and approval of the applications will be very limited given the small number of likely projects and amount of time needed to review those projects. No fiscal impact.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

We don't know the range of potential climate-smart ag crop practices that might result tied to our agricultural leases.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

None

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

NONE

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA.*

NONE

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

None

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.

Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 5484 SB	Title: Food/environmental steward.	Agency: 490-Department of Natural Resources
-----------------------------	-------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------

Part I: Estimates

No Fiscal Impact

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

NONE

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.
- If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.
- Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact: Jeff Olsen	Phone: 360-786-7428	Date: 02/01/2023
Agency Preparation: Ana Cruz	Phone: 3609021121	Date: 02/03/2023
Agency Approval: Collin Ashley	Phone: 360-688-3128	Date: 02/03/2023
OFM Review: Lisa Borkowski	Phone: (360) 742-2239	Date: 02/03/2023

Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

The bill is proposing that the State Conservation Commission establish a program that provides additional technical assistance to farmers and food processors to help increase energy efficiency, further reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and increase carbon sequestration. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is not named for any action, and landowners would voluntarily seek the assistance, so there is no fiscal impact to DNR.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

NONE

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA.*

NONE

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.

Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 5484 SB	Title: Food/environmental steward.	Agency: 495-Department of Agriculture
-----------------------------	-------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------

Part I: Estimates

No Fiscal Impact

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

NONE

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.
- If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.
- Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact: Jeff Olsen	Phone: 360-786-7428	Date: 02/01/2023
Agency Preparation: Katie Rains	Phone: 360-688-4549	Date: 02/06/2023
Agency Approval: Jeannie Brown	Phone: 360-902-1989	Date: 02/06/2023
OFM Review: Matthew Hunter	Phone: (360) 529-7078	Date: 02/07/2023

Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

The purpose of Senate Bill 5484 is to establish a program that provides additional technical assistance to farmers and food processors on a voluntary basis to help increase energy efficiency, further reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and increase carbon sequestration, while reducing long-term operating costs and creating new market opportunities.

In section 3 subsection 1, this bill requires the Conservation Commission to develop a network of sustainable farms advisors (defined in section 2 subsection 1) which will be hired, hosted, and shared between Conservation Districts to provide consultation and to develop sustainable farms and fields plans for interested farmers in conjunction with implementation of the Sustainable Farms and Fields grants program. The grants program, authorized in RCW 89.08.615 through 89.08.635, is operated by the Conservation Commission and the Commission is required to consult with Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), WSU, and the USDA to develop the program and prioritize grant recipients.

This bill does not explicitly require any additional consultation or staff contributions from WSDA.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

No cash receipt impact.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

Any ongoing consultation with the Commission for the continuous development and implementation Sustainable Farms and Fields program is limited in scope and can be agency-absorbed.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

NONE

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA.*

NONE

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL NOTE

Department of Commerce

Bill Number: 5484 SB

Title: Food/environmental steward.

Part I: Jurisdiction-Location, type or status of political subdivision defines range of fiscal impacts.

Legislation Impacts:

- Cities: All cities
- Counties: All counties
- Special Districts: Conservation districts and other special purpose districts
- Specific jurisdictions only:
- Variance occurs due to:

Part II: Estimates

- No fiscal impacts.
- Expenditures represent one-time costs:
- Legislation provides local option: The number of conservation districts and other public entities that would apply for grants as a result of this legislation.
- Key variables cannot be estimated with certainty at this time: The amount of additional staff time required for conservation districts to hire, host, and share the services of sustainable farms and fields advisors. The effect of expanded grant funding opportunities on the volume of grant applications generated by conservation districts and other public entities.

Estimated revenue impacts to:

Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.

Estimated expenditure impacts to:

Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.

Part III: Preparation and Approval

Fiscal Note Analyst: Chelsea Mickel	Phone: 518-727-3478	Date: 02/06/2023
Leg. Committee Contact: Jeff Olsen	Phone: 360-786-7428	Date: 02/01/2023
Agency Approval: Allan Johnson	Phone: 360-725-5033	Date: 02/06/2023
OFM Review: Matthew Hunter	Phone: (360) 529-7078	Date: 02/06/2023

Part IV: Analysis

A. SUMMARY OF BILL

Description of the bill with an emphasis on how it impacts local government.

This bill the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) to establish a network of sustainable farms and fields advisors that provide additional technical assistance to farmers and food processors to help increase energy efficiency, further reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and increase carbon sequestration.

Section 2 adds the following definitions related to agricultural waste management:

COOPERATING AREAS - a group of conservation districts that will share access to the services of an advisor.

ADVISORS - sustainable farms and fields advisors.

CLIMATE-SMART PRACTICES - best management practices that increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

SUSTAINABLE FARMS AND FIELDS PLAN - a site-specific suite of recommendations that can help a farm or food processing facility increase energy efficiency, utilize more green energy, sequester carbon, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Section 3 amends the responsibilities of the SCC. The SCC is authorized to develop a network of sustainable farms and fields advisors whereby groups of conservation districts will hire, host, and share the services of sustainable farms and fields advisors. A new position is established within the SCC that is responsible for coordinating the advisors, disseminating current information about energy efficiency and climate-smart practices and funding opportunities, applying for grants, writing progress reports, and other duties as needed.

Section 4 expands allowable uses of grant funds include cost-share purchases of equipment, and services to landowners that include, but are not limited to; the development of site specific sustainable farms and fields plans and climate-smart practices, providing financial assistance to implement best management, and increase energy efficiency and utilization of green energy.

Section 5 states that the SCC shall expand their biannual report to the legislature and the governor to include the performance of sustainable farms and fields advisors.

B. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE IMPACTS

Expenditure impacts of the legislation on local governments with the expenditure provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of expenditures. Delineated between city, county and special district impacts.

This bill would have indeterminate expenditure impacts on local governments.

Conservation districts would incur costs collaborating with each other to hire, host, and share the services of sustainable farms and fields advisors. The average professional compensation at the local level is \$66 per hour, including benefits and overhead. Costs to local governments would depend upon the number of hours of staff time required to hire and collaborate with sustainable farms and fields advisors. Uncertainties about the amount of additional staff time required to participate in the program, or the amount of time required to consult with the advisors and implement the best management practices identified, is unknown. Due to the aforementioned uncertainties, the expenditure impacts to local governments as a result of this bill is indeterminate.

If local governments were to apply for grants as a result of this legislation, they would incur costs associated with outreach, grant writing, reporting and implementation processes. According to the Washington Association of Conservation districts (WACD), their members would incur costs for developing outreach materials and publicizing the availability of grants to local landowners, as well as writing the grant, which often requires seeking support from partners. If a grant is awarded, conservation districts would need to inform landowners of the grant implementation process and the impacts on natural resources and land stewardship. Local governments that are awarded grants would be required to do reporting, which generally includes summaries of progress that are also used for local presentations to elected officials, landowners,

and partners. However, Conservation Districts and other public entities already have the opportunity to apply for grants under the Sustainable Farms and Fields Grant Program. This makes it difficult to determine how many local governments would increase the volume or scope of grant applications due new provisions established by this bill, and thus expenditure impact of expanding the scope of grant funding opportunities are indeterminate.

C. SUMMARY OF REVENUE IMPACTS

Revenue impacts of the legislation on local governments, with the revenue provisions identified by section number, and when appropriate, the detail of revenue sources. Delineated between city, county and special district impacts.

This bill would have indeterminate revenue impacts on local governments.

Local governments that apply for funding under the Sustainable Farms and Fields Grant Program may receive grant money to fund specific programs, including cost-share purchases of equipment and services to landowners. These services are expended to include the development of site-specific sustainable farms and fields plans and climate-smart practices, providing financial assistance to implement best management, and increase energy efficiency and utilization of green energy. Since it is unknown how many local governments would receive increased grant funding due to the new provisions established by this bill, the revenue impact of expanding the scope of grant funding opportunities to local governments is indeterminate.

SOURCES

Local Government Fiscal Note Program Unit Cost Model, (2023)

Local Government Fiscal Note, SB 5551, (2023)

Municipal Research Services Center

Revised Code of Washington, RCW 98.08.030

Senate Bill Analysis, SB 5484, Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks, (2023)

Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Washington State Conservation Commission