

# Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

<b>Bill Number:</b> 5972 S SB	<b>Title:</b> Neonicotinoid pesticides	<b>Agency:</b> 495-Department of Agriculture
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## 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	0.0	1.0	0.5	2.5	2.5
<b>Account</b>					
Model Toxics Control Operating Account-State 23P-1	0	139,220	139,220	742,010	755,270
<b>Total \$</b>	0	139,220	139,220	742,010	755,270

### 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: Karen Epps	Phone: 360-786-7424	Date: 01/31/2024
Agency Preparation: Daleena Blair	Phone: 360-584-4568	Date: 02/08/2024
Agency Approval: Lori Peterson	Phone: 360-974-9767	Date: 02/08/2024
OFM Review: Matthew Hunter	Phone: (360) 529-7078	Date: 02/08/2024

## 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.*

Compared to SB 5972, SSB 5972 has the following changes: Section 2(1) adds an exception that applications of neonicotinoid pesticides can be made to outdoor plants by a licensed application, which the Department interprets as applications made by licensed applicators, or during the production of an agricultural commodity. SSB 5972 also removes any reference to “non-blossoming plants” including the definition of “blossoming plants.” It also removes Section 2(2) which requires designation of neonicotinoid pesticides as state restricted use pesticides (SRUP).

These amendments would change the fiscal impacts Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) estimated for the previous version of the proposed legislation.

Under current law, WSDA is responsible for enforcing pesticide regulations. The proposed legislation would establish restrictions on the use of certain pesticides.

Section 2 (1) would restrict the use of neonicotinoid pesticides on outdoor plants in Washington State, except when applied by a licensed applicator, or during the production of an agricultural commodity, beginning January 1, 2026.

Section 2 (2) would allow the Director of WSDA to authorize sale, possession, or use of neonicotinoid pesticides by written order, in the event of an urgent pest threat, and specifies the required contents of the written order.

Section 2 (3) would require WSDA to review and update rules under RCW 15.58.040 by June 30, 2025, and every four years thereafter, to administer and enforce the provisions of the new chapter created in the proposed legislation.

### 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.*

The expenditure impact to Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is estimated to be greater than \$50,000 in fiscal years (FYs) 2025 through 2029. Costs are assumed to be in the Model Toxics Control Account-Operating, which is the standard appropriated account used for WSDA's pesticide management activities under current law.

Section 2 (1): Restrictions effective January 1, 2026

The restriction of neonicotinoid pesticides would require outreach and communication to inform homeowners, retailers, and others who may currently use or distribute the pesticides restricted under this section on January 1, 2026.

WSDA estimates 1.0 FTE Community Outreach and Environmental Education Specialist 3 would be needed for four years, beginning in FY 2025 to ensure the public is informed of the restriction and support compliance when the restriction goes into effect. Travel costs for this position are estimated to be \$3,540 in fiscal year 2025, and \$1,770 each year from fiscal year 2026 through fiscal year 2028.

WSDA assumes a need for compliance monitoring and enforcement of the pesticide use restriction on outdoor plants in Washington. Many neonicotinoid pesticides are available for use on outdoor plants in ornamental settings. The prohibition of

unlicensed applicator uses on outdoor plants may require monitoring of applications in landscape settings. In addition to workload for monitoring compliance, WSDA assumes an increase in the number complaints from the public requiring investigation for potential enforcement.

Based on the assumptions above, WSDA estimates 2.0 FTE Pesticide Regulatory Specialist 2 (PRS2) ongoing, beginning January 1, 2026, to monitor landscape applications and provide complaint investigation and response, and provide technical assistance and enforcement as needed. This position would require a vehicle and travel statewide. Estimated travel costs are \$4,600 in fiscal year 2026, and \$9,200 each year in fiscal year 2027 and ongoing each fiscal year thereafter.

By June 30, 2025, and every four years thereafter, WSDA would be required to review and update rules under RCW 15.58.040 as needed to administer and enforce this chapter as those rules relate to neonicotinoid pesticides. WSDA assumes rules would not require updates to align with the requirements of the proposed legislation.

The total estimated fiscal impact of the proposed legislation is as follows:

- FY 2024: \$0 and 0.00 FTE
- FY 2025: \$139,220 and 1.00 FTE
- FY 2026: \$298,150 and 2.00 FTE
- FY 2027: \$443,860 and 3.00 FTE
- FY 2028: \$443,860 and 3.00 FTE
- FY 2029 and ongoing: \$311,990 and 2.00 FTE

Summary of cost assumptions by object:

Salary estimates are current biennium actual rates at Step L.

Benefits are calculated based on current standard statewide benefit rates.

Goods and Services are the agency average of \$8,600 per direct program FTE. Goods and Services also include building lease costs, estimated at \$3,800 per FTE per year, professional development costs estimated at \$500 per FTE per year, and personnel services charges, estimated to be 0.347% of salaries.

Travel costs are estimated to be \$3,540 in fiscal year (FY) 2025, \$6,370 in FY 2026, \$10,970 each year in FYs 2027 and 2028, and \$9,200 in FY 2029 and ongoing each fiscal year thereafter.

Equipment includes workstation set-up costs of \$5,000 for each position, estimated to be \$5,000 in fiscal year 2025, and \$10,000 in fiscal year 2026.

Agency Administrative Overhead is calculated based on a rate of 24.6% of direct program salaries and benefits.

**Part III: Expenditure Detail**

**III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures**

Account	Account Title	Type	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
23P-1	Model Toxics Control Operating Account	State	0	139,220	139,220	742,010	755,270
<b>Total \$</b>			0	139,220	139,220	742,010	755,270

**III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose**

	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
FTE Staff Years		1.0	0.5	2.5	2.5
A-Salaries and Wages		67,720	67,720	376,830	389,580
B-Employee Benefits		26,620	26,620	143,930	147,540
C-Professional Service Contracts					
E-Goods and Other Services		13,130	13,130	65,800	65,850
G-Travel		3,540	3,540	17,340	20,170
J-Capital Outlays		5,000	5,000	10,000	
M-Inter Agency/Fund Transfers					
N-Grants, Benefits & Client Services					
P-Debt Service					
S-Interagency Reimbursements					
T-Intra-Agency Reimbursements					
9-9 Agency Administrative Overhead		23,210	23,210	128,110	132,130
<b>Total \$</b>	0	139,220	139,220	742,010	755,270

**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
COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENVIRO ED SPEC 3	67,720		1.0	0.5	1.0	0.5
PESTICIDE REGULATORY SPECIALIST 2	80,464				1.5	2.0
<b>Total FTEs</b>			1.0	0.5	2.5	2.5

**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.*

Section 2 would require WSDA to review and update rules, as needed, by June 30, 2025, and every four years thereafter, for alignment with the provisions of this chapter. WSDA assumes rule updates would not be needed to align with the requirements of the proposed legislation.