

Multiple Agency Fiscal Note Summary

Bill Number: 6278 S SB	Title: Organic agriculture
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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	Fiscal note not available					
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	Fiscal note not available											
State Conservation Commission	Fiscal note not available											
Department of Agriculture	.4	119,720	119,720	119,720	.1	48,010	48,010	48,010	.0	0	0	0
Total \$	0.4	119,720	119,720	119,720	0.1	48,010	48,010	48,010	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	Fiscal note not available								
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	Fiscal note not available								
State Conservation Commission	Fiscal note not available								
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	Fiscal note not available								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Breakout

NONE

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Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 6278 S SB	Title: Organic agriculture	Agency: 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	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.0
Account					
General Fund-State 001-1	0	119,720	119,720	48,010	0
Total \$	0	119,720	119,720	48,010	0

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.

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Agency Approval: Lori Peterson	Phone: 360-974-9767	Date: 02/16/2024
OFM Review: Matthew Hunter	Phone: (360) 529-7078	Date: 02/16/2024

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 6278, SSB 6278 would require the task force established in section 2 to include one or more historically underserved farmers or ranchers.

This amendment would not change the fiscal impacts WSDA estimated for the previous version of the proposed legislation.

The proposed legislation would seek to promote organic agriculture in Washington State through the development of an organic action plan, the establishment of an organic and regenerative task force, and the allowance for appropriated funds to offset the cost of organic certification for businesses certified by Washington State Department of Washington (WSDA).

Section 1 adds a new section to RCW 15.86. This section acknowledges the significance of organic agriculture in Washington State and establishes the need for an organic agriculture action plan to increase the amount of organic and regenerative practices.

Section 2 adds a new section to RCW 15.86. This section directs WSDA to create and chair an organic and regenerative task force. The section outlines the establishment and composition of the task force. The members would work in consultation with WSDA to develop an organic agriculture action plan by November 1, 2025. The new section includes details on the scope and content of the action plan and directs WSDA to consider recommendations for legislative, administrative, or budgetary actions necessary to implement the plan. This new section would expire on December 31, 2025.

Section 3 would amend RCW 15.86.070 to allow the WSDA's certification program to receive appropriated funding for the specific purpose of reducing fees to decrease the financial burden to achieve or maintain organic certification and increase participation in organic agriculture.

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.

To accomplish the directives in Sec. 1 and 2, WSDA would begin work in FY25 (July 2024) with the appointment of task force members per Sec. 2 criteria. WSDA estimates staff coordinating four in-person meetings and industry tours and ten monthly web-based meetings over the course of the 16-month timeline. Meetings would focus on the development of both the required elements of the plan and the recommendations necessary to support the action plan. WSDA staff would draft the plan and the legislative report, soliciting content, ideas, and review from the task force.

WSDA assumes efforts from staff with organic agriculture expertise would be required to facilitate and coordinate the task force meetings, develop the plan, and write the legislative report. Administrative staff would provide support to organic subject matter experts. In FY25, WSDA estimates this effort would require 0.25 FTE of a WMS3, 0.25 FTE of a ES5, and 0.25 FTE of an AA4, as well as \$6,228 in staff travel costs. In FY26, WSDA estimates 0.12 FTE of a WMS3, 0.08 FTE of a ES5, and 0.08 FTE of an AA4 in addition to \$2,076 in staff travel costs.

In-person meetings will rotate venues to provide exposure to the diversity of Washington agriculture and tours of organic production throughout the state. WSDA assumes at least 10 of the 15-member task force would request reimbursement for mileage, lodging and per diem per in-person meeting and tour. \$22,000 in additional funding would be needed to ensure reimbursement for three quarterly in-person meetings around the state of Washington in FY25 and \$9,000 for one in-person meeting in FY26.

The amendment to WSDA’s authority in RCW 15.86.070 would only impact businesses paying fees under the WSDA fee schedule. WSDA currently works with approximately 1,100 organic farms and handlers, 78% of the certified organic businesses in Washington. Additional authority to utilize or distribute appropriated funding would be necessary for WSDA to provide a similar credit or reimbursement to Washington businesses certified by another USDA accredited certification agency. Currently 284 businesses in Washington are certified by one of the 17 other agencies offering certification services in Washington State.

In addition to the expenditure detail related to staffing and agency overhead, \$22,000 in expenses are estimated in related travel expenses for task force members in FY25 and \$9,000 in FY26.

Travel in FY2025 estimated 9 days of per diem and lodging at \$6,228, FY 2026 estimated 3 days of per diem and lodging at \$2,076.

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
001-1	General Fund	State	0	119,720	119,720	48,010	0
Total \$			0	119,720	119,720	48,010	0

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
FTE Staff Years		0.8	0.4	0.2	
A-Salaries and Wages		70,460	70,460	28,620	
B-Employee Benefits		12,660	12,660	5,140	
C-Professional Service Contracts					
E-Goods and Other Services		9,920	9,920	3,860	
G-Travel		6,230	6,230	2,080	
J-Capital Outlays					
M-Inter Agency/Fund Transfers					
N-Grants, Benefits & Client Services					
P-Debt Service					
S-Interagency Reimbursements					
T-Intra-Agency Reimbursements					
9-Agency Administrative Overhead		20,450	20,450	8,310	
Total \$	0	119,720	119,720	48,010	0

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
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT 4	62,888		0.3	0.1	0.0	
ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST 5	95,654		0.3	0.1	0.0	
Program Manager	213,297		0.3	0.1	0.1	
Total FTEs			0.8	0.4	0.2	0.0

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.

If funds are appropriated, the changes outlined in Sec. 3 would require rulemaking to amend or reduce fees outlined in WAC 16-157-251 (Certification Fees).