

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	No fiscal impact					
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	.3	70,829	70,829	70,829	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
Department of Agriculture	.4	119,720	119,720	119,720	.1	48,010	48,010	48,010	.0	0	0	0
Total \$	0.7	190,549	190,549	190,549	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	No fiscal impact								
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	.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	No fiscal impact								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Breakout

NONE

Prepared by: Matthew Hunter, OFM	Phone: (360) 529-7078	Date Published: Preliminary 2/20/2024
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Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 6278 S SB	Title: Organic agriculture	Agency: 471-State Conservation Commission
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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	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
Account					
General Fund-State 001-1	29,731	41,098	70,829	0	0
Total \$	29,731	41,098	70,829	0	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.

Legislative Contact: Robert Hatfield	Phone: 360-786-7117	Date: 02/16/2024
Agency Preparation: Karla Heinitz	Phone: 360-878-4666	Date: 02/20/2024
Agency Approval: Sarah Groth	Phone: 360-790-3501	Date: 02/20/2024
OFM Review: Matthew Hunter	Phone: (360) 529-7078	Date: 02/20/2024

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.

Substitute Senate Bill 6278 does not have any additional fiscal impact on the State Conservation as a participant in the task force.

The substitute bill adds to the listing of task force members "one or more historically underserved farmers or ranchers".

Section 2 directs the WA Department of Agriculture (WSDA) to create and chair an organic and regenerative agriculture task force. The State Conservation Commission is listed as one of the participants in the task force.

WSDA will chair the task force and in consultation with the organic and regenerative agriculture task force will develop an organic agricultural action plan to serve as a guide to leverage organic and regenerative agriculture to address economic, social, and environmental challenges, create opportunities for farmers who wish to transition to organic farming, increase resiliency in agricultural methods, and build a robust regional food system. WSDA and the task force shall consider the work and recommendations of the WA soil health initiative when developing the organic agriculture action plan.

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.

An Environmental Planner 4 would attend meetings estimated to be once a month for FY 24 (3 meetings for 2 hours/meeting). Meetings would occur bi-monthly for FY25 (4 months x bi-monthly=8 total meetings), each meeting lasting 2-3 hours. Preparation and attendance at meetings and review of a report due in November 2025.

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	29,731	41,098	70,829	0	0
Total \$			29,731	41,098	70,829	0	0

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
FTE Staff Years	0.2	0.3	0.3		
A-Salaries and Wages	16,838	25,258	42,096		
B-Employee Benefits	5,893	8,840	14,733		
C-Professional Service Contracts					
E-Goods and Other Services	7,000	7,000	14,000		
G-Travel					
J-Capital Outlays					
M-Inter Agency/Fund Transfers					
N-Grants, Benefits & Client Services					
P-Debt Service					
S-Interagency Reimbursements					
T-Intra-Agency Reimbursements					
9-					
Total \$	29,731	41,098	70,829	0	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
Enviromental Planner 4, Step H	84,192	0.2	0.3	0.3		
Total FTEs		0.2	0.3	0.3		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.

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.

Legislative Contact: Robert Hatfield	Phone: 360-786-7117	Date: 02/16/2024
Agency Preparation: Brenda Book	Phone: 3609703657	Date: 02/16/2024
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).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL NOTE

Department of Commerce

Bill Number: 6278 S SB

Title: Organic agriculture

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

Legislation Impacts:

- Cities:
- Counties:
- Special Districts: Irrigation district officials or their staff could be involved in the Department of Agriculture's Organic and Regenerative Agriculture Task Force.
- Specific jurisdictions only:
- Variance occurs due to:

Part II: Estimates

- No fiscal impacts.
- Expenditures represent one-time costs:
- Legislation provides local option: Participation in the task force is not a requirement of this act.
- Key variables cannot be estimated with certainty at this time:

Estimated revenue impacts to:

None

Estimated expenditure impacts to:

None

Part III: Preparation and Approval

Fiscal Note Analyst: Jordan Laramie	Phone: 360-725-5044	Date: 02/20/2024
Leg. Committee Contact: Robert Hatfield	Phone: 360-786-7117	Date: 02/16/2024
Agency Approval: Allan Johnson	Phone: 360-725-5033	Date: 02/20/2024
OFM Review: Matthew Hunter	Phone: (360) 529-7078	Date: 02/20/2024

Part IV: Analysis

A. SUMMARY OF BILL

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

This fiscal note reflects language found in the substitute version of SB 6278, 2024 legislative session. The amendments to this legislation would not change the fiscal impact of the prior bill, which is no local government impact.

CHANGES TO CURRENT BILL VERSION:

Includes a new required member to the Organic and Regenerative Agriculture Task Force.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT BILL:

This legislation would establish a task force to investigate regenerative farming practices and organic agriculture in Washington State and develop an Organic Agriculture Action Plan to the legislature by November 1, 2025.

Sec. 2 mandates the creation of an Organic and Regenerative Agriculture Task Force by the Department of Agriculture. This task force is assembled to develop an Organic Agriculture Action Plan that should promote organic and regenerative agriculture. Membership of the task force is multifaceted but must include membership from the state's irrigation districts

This act would go into effect 90 days after the adjournment of the session in which it is passed.

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.

CHANGES IN EXPENDITURE IMPACTS BETWEEN THIS VERSION AND PREVIOUS BILL VERSION:

The amendments to the substitute version of this bill would not change the expenditure impact of the prior bill, which is no impact.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT BILL VERSION:

There would be no expenditure impact associated with this act because it does not require local governments to take action.

For irrigation commissioners, or their support staff, that choose to participate in the Department of Agriculture's Organic and Regenerative Agriculture Task Force (task force) there may be minor to de minimis costs associated with voluntarily participating in the task force.

It is unknown which local governments would participate and to what extent. According to the Municipal Research and Services Center, there are 95 irrigation districts in the state, which have between three and five commissioners per district. Certain details of the task force (such as the number of times that they would convene, the location or venue, and the particular representative(s) from local governments) cannot be known at this time. Therefore, the impacts to expenditures from this section would be indeterminate.

Meeting Costs:

Irrigation district commissioners and support staff would have time associated with meeting prep, proving subject matter expertise where needed, and recordkeeping between meetings. Participating in the task force is assumed to be undertaken in a volunteer capacity for district staff. These costs would be with commensurate with existing job duties, so there would be no added costs associated with this act.

Travel Costs:

There may be de minimis costs for commissioners or support staff who travel for certain types of activities related to the Organic Agriculture Action Plan. The number of meetings, frequency of meetings, and location of these meetings is not known at this time. It is assumed by the Local Government Fiscal Note Program that the majority of meetings would be

through online meeting platforms, with in person meetings taking place on a more infrequent basis.

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.

CHANGES IN REVENUE IMPACTS BETWEEN THIS VERSION AND PREVIOUS BILL VERSION:

The amendments to the substitute version of this bill would not change the revenue impact of the prior bill, which is no impact.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT BILL VERSION:

There would be revenue impact associated with this act.

SOURCES:

Municipal Research and Services Center, Special Purpose District in Washington
Local Government Fiscal Note Program, S HB 1499 (2021)
House Bill Analysis, S SB 6278 (2024)