



Legislative
Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 20-1213

FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 20-0521
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Young; Pelton

Date: February 20, 2020
Bill Status: House Rural Affairs
Fiscal Analyst: Clare Pramuk | 303-866-2677
clare.pramuk@state.co.us

Bill Topic: **SUNSET COMMODITY HANDLER AND FARM PRODUCTS ACTS**

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

Sunset bill. This bill continues and combines the Commodity Handler Act and the Farm Products Act in the Department of Agriculture, which are scheduled to repeal on July 1, 2020. State fiscal impacts include both increased workload from changes to the regulatory program under the bill, as well as the continuation of the regulatory programs' current revenue and expenditures. The combined regulatory program is continued through September 1, 2031.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 20-1213

New Impacts		FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22
Revenue		-	-
Expenditures		-	-
TABOR Refund		-	-
Continuing Program Impacts		FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22
Revenue	Cash Funds	-	\$252,226
Expenditures	Cash Funds	-	\$273,317
	FTE	-	3.7 FTE
TABOR Refund		-	-

* Table 1 shows the new impacts resulting from changes to the program under the bill and the continuing impacts from extending the program beyond its current repeal date. The continuing program impacts will end if the bill is not passed and the program is allowed to repeal.

Summary of Legislation

This bill combines the Commodity Handler Act and the Farm Products Act, which are both regulated by the Department of Agriculture, and continues the combined act through September 1, 2031. The current repeal date is July 1, 2020. The bill increases a dealer's maximum bond or irrevocable letter of credit from \$200,000 to \$1.0 million and requires that financial statements be prepared by a certified public accountant. The Commissioner of Agriculture is required to promulgate rules on the following:

- financial assurance requirements, including a schedule for applicants to file a bond with the commissioner;
- requirements for maintaining records;
- initial and renewal license requirements;
- requirements for credit sale contracts;
- requirements for warehouse operations; and
- the capacity of animal feeding operations.

Background

The Commissioner of Agriculture regulates commodity handlers and businesses that purchase and store farm products to ensure that sellers are compensated for their products. This is accomplished through inspections, financial audits, and enforcement of bonding requirements.

Continuing Program Impacts

Based on the department's current budget for these programs, the Department of Agriculture will have continued revenue of \$252,226 and expenditures of \$273,317 to regulate commodity handlers and farm products businesses. If this bill is enacted, current revenue and expenditures will continue for the regulatory program starting in FY 2021-22. Although the continuing revenue is subject to the state TABOR limits, the fiscal note does not identify a change to TABOR refunds because the revenue is already accounted for in the Legislative Council Staff quarterly revenue forecast. If this bill is not enacted, the regulatory program will end on July 1, 2021, following a wind-down period, and state revenue and expenditures will decrease starting in FY 2021-22 by the amounts shown in Table 1. The changes to the program that increase workload are discussed in the State Expenditure section below.

State Expenditures

This bill will increase workload for the Department of Agriculture to promulgate rules. The workload increase can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

Agriculture

Information Technology

Law