

Date of State Budget Office Approval:

Date Requested: Wednesday, April 03, 2013

Date Due: Saturday, April 13, 2013

<i>Impact on Expenditures</i>		<i>Impact on Revenues</i>	
FY 2013	\$0	FY 2013	\$0
FY 2014	\$0	FY 2014	\$0
FY 2015	\$0	FY 2015	\$0

Explanation by State Budget Office: This legislation would shift the power and duties for the Department of Environmental Management to enable the Division of Agriculture to become the Agricultural Agency of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. In addition, the proposed legislation would require the Chief of the Division of Agriculture to report directly to the Director of Environmental Management in regards to functions and duties pertaining to farms, farm operation, and agriculture.



Comments on Sources of Funds: The proposed legislation would have no fiscal impact on the Department or the State of Rhode Island based on the similar scope of work already being conducted by the Division of Agriculture.

Summary of Facts and Assumptions: While the legislation provides that the act would take effect upon passage, the Budget Office assumes an effective date of July 1, 2013.

If passed, the legislation would have a significant impact on the Department's organizational chart as the current layout shows the Division of Agriculture within the Natural Resources program, reporting to the Associate Director of Natural Resources. The legislation would move the Division of Agriculture out of the hierarchy and set forth a direct line of communication and reporting with the Department of Environmental Management.

The proposed legislation also interjects DEM into statewide planning above and beyond its current role of just being on the Statewide Planning Council. The legislation would undoubtedly expand the influence of the Division of Agriculture for supervision and control of all natural resources as stated in 42-17.1-2(1), and comprehensive planning and land use of towns and cities as stated in chapter 45-22.2 set forth in Article 1, Section 17 of the Constitution of the State.

Summary of Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal impact for the proposed legislation. The proposed functions and duties are done by the Division of Agriculture on a day-to-day basis currently. This legislation would merely establish the Division as the Agricultural Agency for the State of Rhode Island and require the Chief of Agriculture to report directly to the Director of the Department of Environmental Management.

Budget Office Signature: 
Fiscal Advisor Signature: 

Prepared by: Todd Leveille / 4012228151 / Todd.Leveille@budget.ri.gov