

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 1520

PRINTER NO. 1915

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

May 29, 2019

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Snyder

DESCRIPTION

House Bill 1520 adds a new Chapter 101 (Very Small Meat Processor Federal Inspection Reimbursement Grant Program) to Title 3 (Agriculture) establishing a grant program under the Department of Agriculture (department) to cover costs associated with very small meat processors coming into compliance with federal inspection standards.

The legislation provides that grants under this program are reimbursement grants and are available for eligible costs to meet federal inspection guidelines during the planning and start-up periods for an operation, and for obtaining a federal certification to allow the sale of meat. It provides that an applicant must be in compliance with all applicable federal licensure, recordkeeping and slaughter requirements to receive a reimbursement grant. It specifies that eligible costs include costs incurred for an initial compliance inspection, costs directly incurred to produce a required Federal Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) plan, and up to 50% of the costs for first-time equipment purchases to comply with a HACCP plan. The legislation provides that grants shall only be offered when funding is made available to the department and grant money may be prorated or offered as a percentage of actual costs to spread available money to a larger number of eligible applicants.

The legislation defines "very small meat processor" as "a person subject to federal meat inspection that meets the United States Department of Agriculture's definition of a 'very small processor,' having fewer than 10 employees or annual sales of less than \$2,500,000."

The legislation is scheduled to take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of House Bill 1520 will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. Funding for the Very Small Meat Processor Federal Inspection Reimbursement Grant Program established in the legislation will be dependent upon appropriations made by the General Assembly through the annual General Appropriations Act.