

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 6349H.01I
Bill No.: HB 2844
Subject: Agriculture; Environmental Protection; Department of Agriculture
Type: Original
Date: March 11, 2026

Bill Summary: This proposal establishes the " Paraquat Ban and Environmental Research Act of 2026".

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Revenue	(\$319,800)	(\$292,157)	(\$297,020)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	(\$319,800)	(\$292,157)	(\$297,020)

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Revenue	3 FTE	3 FTE	3 FTE
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	3 FTE	3 FTE	3 FTE

Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.

Estimated Net Effect (savings or increased revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Local Government	\$0 or Unknown	\$0 or Unknown	\$0 or Unknown

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Missouri Office of Prosecution Services** did not respond to **Oversight's** request for fiscal impact for this proposal.

§281.130 - The "Paraquat 2 Ban and Environmental Research Act of 2026"

Officials from the **Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA)** state that Missouri's legal prohibition on the use of paraquat will remove a control option from the producer's toolbox. The relative availability of paraquat outside of Missouri will provide a secondary market incentive for the sale, distribution, and eventual use in Missouri.

Two Senior Consumer Protection Specialists will inspect and investigate traditional industry users of paraquat, attempting to uphold the prohibition.

The Consumer Protection Specialist will be tasked with inspection and investigation case review, managing the Civil Penalty process, and producing annual reports required by the legislation.

Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will show the fiscal impact (3 FTE) as estimated by the MDA to General Revenue.

Officials from the **Office of Attorney General (AGO)** assume any potential litigation costs arising from this proposal can be absorbed with existing resources. The AGO may seek additional appropriations if the proposal results in a significant increase in litigation or investigation costs.

Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight assumes the AGO will be able to perform any additional duties required by this proposal with current staff and resources and will reflect no fiscal impact to the AGO for fiscal note purposes.

Oversight notes that violations of §281.130.5 could result in fines or penalties. Oversight also notes per Article IX Section 7 of the Missouri Constitution fines and penalties collected by counties are distributed to school districts. Fines vary widely from year to year and are distributed to the school district where the violation occurred. Oversight will reflect a positive fiscal impact of \$0 to Unknown to local school districts. For simplicity, Oversight will not reflect the possibility that fine revenue paid to school districts may act as a subtraction in the foundation formula.

Officials from the **Department of Natural Resources** and **Office of the State Courts Administrator** each assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their respective organizations. **Oversight** does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note for these agencies.

Oversight only reflects the responses that we have received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, other county commissioners were requested to respond to this proposed legislation but did not. Upon receiving additional responses, Oversight will review to determine if an updated fiscal note should be prepared and seek the necessary approval to publish a new fiscal note. A general listing of political subdivisions included in our database is available upon request.

Rule Promulgation

Officials from the **Joint Committee on Administrative Rules** assume this proposal is not anticipated to cause a fiscal impact beyond its current appropriation.

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** note many bills considered by the General Assembly include provisions allowing or requiring agencies to submit rules and regulations to implement the act. The SOS is provided with core funding to handle a certain amount of normal activity resulting from each year's legislative session. The fiscal impact for this fiscal note to the SOS for Administrative Rules is less than \$5,000. The SOS recognizes that this is a small amount and does not expect that additional funding would be required to meet these costs. However, the SOS also recognizes that many such bills may be passed by the General Assembly in a given year and that collectively the costs may be in excess of what the office can sustain with its core budget. Therefore, the SOS reserves the right to request funding for the cost of supporting administrative rules requirements should the need arise based on a review of the finally approved bills signed by the governor.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
GENERAL REVENUE			
<u>Cost – MDA (\$281.130) p.3</u>			
Personnel Service	(\$115,417)	(\$141,270)	(\$144,095)
Fringe Benefits	(\$87,261)	(\$105,827)	(\$106,963)
Expense & Equipment	(\$117,122)	(\$45,060)	(\$45,962)
Total Costs – MDA	(\$319,800)	(\$292,157)	(\$297,020)
FTE Change - MDA	3 FTE	3 FTE	3 FTE
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT TO GENERAL REVENUE	(\$319,800)	(\$292,157)	(\$297,020)
Estimated Net FTE Change General Revenue	3 FTE	3 FTE	3 FTE

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS			
<u>Revenue Gain – School districts</u> <u>(§281.130.5) Fines from violations p.3</u>	\$0 or <u>Unknown</u>	\$0 or <u>Unknown</u>	\$0 or <u>Unknown</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS	\$0 or <u>Unknown</u>	\$0 or <u>Unknown</u>	\$0 or <u>Unknown</u>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

There could be a fiscal impact on small businesses such as agriculture co-ops that sell/distribute paraquat could be expected as a result of this proposal.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This bill establishes the "Paraquat Ban and Environmental Research Act of 2026". Beginning January 1, 2027, the use of paraquat is prohibited in this State, except as specified in the bill. Before January 1, 2027, anyone using, distributing, or selling paraquat must submit a detailed report to the Department of Agriculture regarding his or her use of paraquat, including the information specified in the bill. The Department must compile and publish these reports on its website by no later than March 31, 2027, and annually thereafter.

Any person who uses, distributes, or sells paraquat in violation of the prohibition will be subject to a fine in the amount of \$250 for the first violation and \$500 for any subsequent violations.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

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SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Attorney General's Office
Department of Natural Resources
Joint Committee on Administrative Rules
Missouri Department of Agriculture
Office of the Secretary of State
Office of the State Courts Administrator



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March 11, 2026



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March 11, 2026