

**HF2908 - 0 - Voluntary Certification; Salt Applicators**

Chief Author: **Peter Fischer**  
 Committee: **Environment And Natural Resources Finance And Policy**  
 Date Completed: **2/14/2022 2:32:02 PM**  
 Agency: **Pollution Control Agency**

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures	X	
Fee/Departmental Earnings	X	
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology	X	
Local Fiscal Impact		X

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings)	Biennium			Biennium	
	Dollars in Thousands	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024
Environmental	-	-	355	175	175
<b>Total</b>	-	-	<b>355</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>175</b>
<b>Biennial Total</b>			<b>355</b>		<b>350</b>

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
Environmental	-	-	1.5	1.5	1.5
<b>Total</b>	-	-	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>

**LBO Analyst's Comment**

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

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**State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details**

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

\*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

<b>State Cost (Savings) = 1-2</b>		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	
Environmental	-	-	355	175	175	
<b>Total</b>	-	-	<b>355</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>175</b>	
<b>Biennial Total</b>			<b>355</b>		<b>350</b>	
<b>1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*</b>						
Environmental	-	-	460	280	280	
<b>Total</b>	-	-	<b>460</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>280</b>	
<b>Biennial Total</b>			<b>460</b>		<b>560</b>	
<b>2 - Revenues, Transfers In*</b>						
Environmental	-	-	105	105	105	
<b>Total</b>	-	-	<b>105</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>105</b>	
<b>Biennial Total</b>			<b>105</b>		<b>210</b>	

**Bill Description**

This bill establishes a new section in Minn. Stat. chapter 116. The bill (Section 116.2025) requires in Subd. 2 the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to develop a training program to promote best management practices for snow and ice removal and deicer application that protects water quality. This subdivision also allows commercial applicators to obtain a certification as a water-friendly applicator based on completing the training program and passing an exam. In consultation with the University of Minnesota, the MPCA must provide additional training to certified applicators renewing certification; and provide training and testing modules in person and online. The MPCA must post annually the best management practices and a list of certified commercial applicators on the agency’s website. The MPCA may charge no more than \$350 per certified commercial applicator for the training or recertification. The fees collected must be deposited in the environmental fund.

Subd. 3 limits the liability of the certified commercial applicator or an owner from damages arising from hazards resulting from the accumulation of snow and ice on any real estate maintained by the certified commercial applicator. This subdivision also establishes when limited liability is not granted. Subd. T6 clarifies that nothing in the section affects municipal liability under section 466.03.

Subd. 4 requires the certified commercial applicator to main records as part of the best management practices and the term for records retention.

Subd. 5 provides for the MPCA to revoke or decline to renew the certification of a commercial applicator who violates this section, or the rules adopted under the section.

Subd. 7 requires reporting to the MPCA every July 1 of the amount and types of deicers used in the previous calendar year.

Subd. 8 indicates this section expires August 1, 2029.

**Assumptions**

The bill is specific to commercial applicators and does not include government employees.

1.5 FTE of MPCA program and administrative staff time would be needed to operate the program and track the reporting requirements of the bill. Additional program costs include contractor costs to teach the classes, database, online customer services and online training/testing module development, training materials, and training venues.

Per year costs are based on an estimate of 30 trainees/class and 10 classes/year. These classes would be commercial applicators only and would not include governmental entities. This would cost MPCA approximately \$60,000. Actual costs will vary depending on the demand for classes. The bill proposes a \$350/trainee fee, which would offset some of the training program costs.

A database, online training, online reporting services and testing components must be created using MNIT or an outside contractor.

**Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula**

1.5 FTE/year x \$133,000/FTE = \$199,500/year

Contractor/vendor cost to teach the training classes = \$40,000/year

MPCA estimates it will be \$200,000 for the first year to create the database, online customer services, online training, and testing components, and update the Smart Salting Assessment tool, and \$20,000 each subsequent year for maintenance and updates.

Training site rental (when applicable), training manual, lunch for trainees, proof of completion cards = \$20,000/year

\$350 charge/trainee x 30 trainees/class x 10 classes/year = \$105,000/year in revenue

\*The annual cost of 1.0 FTE is \$133,000 in FY2021-2025. Annual costs for 1.0 FTE include salary, fringe, and non-specialized employee support costs (work space, computer and office supplies, office equipment, local travel, etc.)

**Long-Term Fiscal Considerations**

Bill sunsets in 2029.

**Local Fiscal Impact**

There should be no local government costs.

**References/Sources**

Costs were completed by staff familiar with the program and database/training development.

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