

#3.5

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Commissioners
FROM: Jen Holliday
DATE: 6/20/2025
RE: 2025 Legislative Wrap Up

The 2025 legislative session welcomed over 35 new legislators who took part in introducing an unusually high number of bills in the first session - over 500 in the House and 150 in the Senate. We monitored only those that are relevant to CSWD and are listed in the attached bill tracker.

Two bills in particular, H.484 and H.319, were priorities for CSWD. We were actively involved in drafting and advocating for both throughout the session. Both are omnibus bills that contained multiple unrelated provisions. While H.319 stalled in the Senate, the sections of interest to us were moved into H.484 which passed and was signed into law by the Governor on June 11.

Here are the highlights of H.484.

Pesticide Collection Funding

- Pesticide manufacturers will now pay an \$50 annual registration fee per product sold in Vermont. This fee will fund pesticide collection programs and generate approximately \$600,000 annually. The current registration fee of \$200 that is partly used to fund pesticide collection program has fallen short for the past 5-8 years in fully reimbursing CSWD for pesticide disposal.
- The Agency of Agriculture is charged with evaluating long-term, sustainable funding options for pesticide collection, including the feasibility of an extended producer responsibility (EPR) model.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

- The implementation of Vermont's first-in-the-nation HHW EPR is delayed from 2025 to 2026. We supported this delay to allow producers additional time to organize.
- If no stewardship organization is formed by July 1, 2025, or fails to submit an acceptable program plan, the Agency of Natural Resources must implement a program and charge all associated costs from producers plus 10% that will be used to create a fund for municipalities and small businesses for pollution prevention.
- Paint-related products (e.g., aerosol coatings, thinners, and nonindustrial coatings) are now exempt from the HHW law and have been integrated into the existing PaintCare program.

PaintCare will be required to cover all collection costs for paint-related products, not just disposal/recycling costs, including labor, facility costs, shipping materials, insurance and more.

- Architectural paint consumer fees are codified in statute and no longer subject to the Secretary's approval. The Secretary must submit a report by December 15, 2025 to the Senate and House Committees on Environment/Natural Resources with recommendations on consumer fees for paint-related products.
- The landfill ban on HHW is postponed from July 1, 2025 to July 1, 2026.

What's Next

Because 2025 is the first year of the biennium, bills that did not pass remain active and may be taken up next year. Additional bills will also be introduced next year. The bills that were active and likely to resurface are:

- H.292, H.303, H.425 - Addresses PFAs in biosolids, septage, and sludge including restrictions on land application and exploring long-term solutions for safe and cost-effective disposition that reduces environmental and public health risk.
- 25-0991 – There have been several hearings on this draft bill that proposes converting the bottle deposit redemption system into an EPR program.

CSWD is exploring EPR legislation for mattresses to be introduced next session.

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