

Agency Proposal for Legislation for the 2017 Legislative Session

AGENCY NAME: Department of Agriculture

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1. What is the problem or issue?

In statutes for agricultural seed, commercial fertilizer, commercial feed, and produce, licensees pay assessments based on tonnage or gross sales. Because of the variable timing of agriculture activity, this can result in extremely small assessments due the department (such as \$0.12). It is fiscally inefficient not only for the department to process such small dollar amounts submitted by check but also for the business entity to process and send checks for very small amounts. As the department implements e-government payment solutions, transaction fees on tiny payments will hinder adoption rates of the new technology. Commercial fertilizer tonnage assessment late fees and license late fees are not clearly defined which could lead to inconsistent application.

2. What do you want the legislation to do?

The legislation as proposed will reduce or completely eliminate the possibility that an industry business has to submit required payments when the payment is a miniscule amount, and will mirror other statutes for application of late fees.

3. If possible, please list the MCA (Montana Code Annotated) sections that would need to be amended.

Not yet verified.

4. If the proposed change requires additional funding, what funding sources do you propose (e.g., an increase in or both)?

This proposed legislation does not require additional funding.

5. Has similar legislation been requested in the past, been introduced in another state, or provided as a model act? If so, please provide a citation, reference, or point of contact.

No.