

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** House Bill 324

**PRINTER NO.** 272

**AMOUNT**

No Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

January 27, 2025

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Representative Cepeda-Freytiz

**DESCRIPTION**

House Bill 324 amends the Poultry Technician Licensure Law to provide for certified poultry technicians to collect regulatory samples from eggs and poultry and conduct on-site surveillance for transmissible diseases of poultry.

The legislation provides for the Secretary of Agriculture to establish licensing and training standards, regulatory sampling, and testing procedures and to offer the training in Spanish through issuance of a general quarantine order under the Domestic Animal Law.

The legislation requires an applicant for licensure as a poultry technician to legally be able to work in the United States in accordance with federal and state law and removes provisions requiring an applicant to be a citizen of the United States or to have legally declared his intention to become a citizen, to be of good moral character, and to have completed at least eight years of education.

The legislation removes provisions that prohibit a licensed poultry technician from sampling birds they or their employer owns. It also increases the annual license fee for licensure as a poultry technician from \$5 to \$10.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect immediately.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The enactment of House Bill 324 will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The Department of Agriculture has indicated that changes made by the legislation are minor and can be accomplished within its existing general government operations budget. For information purposes, the department's Fiscal Year 2024-25 general government operations budget is \$48,604,000.

The increase in the application and renewal fee for a poultry technician license from \$5 to \$10 will not generate additional revenue because Section 602-A (Department of Agriculture) of the Administrative Code of 1929 already requires a \$10 fee for the license application and renewal.