

## Proposed new fees and fee increases

As some of you know pet vending is housed in the division of Animal Industry. I could spend all of my allotted time talking about the staffing challenges that we face in attempting to accomplish the job that the legislature has charged us with doing, but I won't. I will tell you that conservatively we currently spend over \$350,000 per year on pet vending but bring in only about \$30,000 a year in revenue.

We are proposing a fee of \$5 on each certificate for transfer that would be paid by the veterinarian. This would produce at least \$275,000 of general fund income per year. This would only be paid on dogs, cats, and ferrets whose transfers require a certificate stating that they are healthy enough to be transferred.

In the area of Pesticide Product Registration we are suggesting that you consider increasing fees, two of which have not been increased since the 1980's and none of which have been increased in the past 10 years. These proposed increases would bring us to the New England average for our fees. The Product Registration fee, established in rule, which we propose changing, would produce \$540,000 of new general fund revenue and \$180,000 of revenue for the Integrated Pest Management Fund. The remaining increases would produce \$96,000 for the Pesticide Control Fund.

In the area of Regulatory Services, we are proposing fee increases that would place us in line with our surrounding states and would produce general fund increases of just over \$225,000 per year and \$330,000 per year for our dedicated fund.

Weights and Measures fees are currently as they were set in 2000. The proposed increases are within line with the rate of inflation since then. If adopted they would increase general fund revenues by about \$450,000. We are also proposing a fee on Registered Service Agencies. These are the businesses that employ the Service Technicians we license who inspect and certify weighing and measuring devices. There are 75 of them and a \$250 fee would result in revenue of \$18,750 per year.

All told these proposals would bring in over \$1,580,000 to the general fund, with \$540,000 coming through a rule change and \$600,000 to our dedicated funds, with \$180,000 through rules. Currently, as you know, we are drawing down on our dedicated funds at an unsustainable rate. This proposal will allow us to continue to allow fees to pay for the services they provide, without reverting to the use of general funds. We also have a number of other rule changes which would produce smaller amounts to the general fund.