SENATE BILL 19-147

A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING THE CONTINUATION OF THE SEED POTATO ACT, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE 2018 SUNSET REPORT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at http://leg.colorado.gov.)

Sunset Process - Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. The bill continues the regulation of seed potato growers and implements the recommendations of the 2018 sunset report by:
Extending regulation of seed potato growers until 2028 (sections 1 and 7 of the bill); Repealing an obsolete provision authorizing uncertified seed potatoes to be used before January 1, 2012 (section 2); Repealing the option to have an independent auditor perform the review of records required by the seed-potato regulation act (sections 3 and 4); Requiring the committee of area no. 2 to pay the fees that implement seed-potato regulation (section 5); and Repealing the provision that limits the amount of a fine to $2,500 (section 6).

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-34-104, repeal (17)(a)(II); and add (29)(a)(V) as follows:

24-34-104. General assembly review of regulatory agencies and functions for repeal, continuation, or reestablishment - legislative declaration - repeal. (17) (a) The following agencies, functions, or both, are scheduled for repeal on September 1, 2019:

(II) The functions of the commissioner of the department of agriculture related to seed potatoes specified in article 27.3 of title 35, C.R.S.;

(29) (a) The following agencies, functions, or both, are scheduled for repeal on September 1, 2028:

(V) The functions of the commissioner of agriculture related to seed potatoes under article 27.3 of title 35.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 35-27.3-105, repeal (4) as follows:

35-27.3-105. Minimum standards for planting seed potatoes - scope - qualified seed potatoes - rules. (4) Prior to January 1, 2012, a Colorado potato grower may plant uncertified and untested seed
potatoes if the seed potatoes have been grown as part of that grower's farming operations: 

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 35-27.3-106, amend (2)(a); and repeal (3) as follows:

35-27.3-106. Record-keeping requirements - annual record reviews. (2) (a) The commissioner shall upon recommendation from the advisory committee, select a qualified department employee or independent auditor to perform a records review on at least ten percent of potato growers subject to this article ARTICLE 27.3 once every seed potato crop cycle. The commissioner shall determine a method for the annual random selection of growers. The area committee for area no. 2, established in the marketing order regulating the handling of potatoes grown in the state of Colorado, as amended, issued pursuant to the "Colorado Agricultural Marketing Act of 1939", article 28 of this title TITLE 35, shall pay the actual costs of such records reviews.

(3) If the independent auditor who conducted the records review believes a violation of this section has occurred, he or she shall notify the commissioner. The commissioner shall then investigate the alleged violation according to section 35-27.3-109:

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 35-27.3-107, amend (4) as follows:

35-27.3-107. Advisory committee - created - members - terms - duties - sunset review - repeal. (4) The advisory committee shall advise the commissioner in establishing rules under this article ARTICLE 27.3, assist in the determination of availability of potatoes, recommend whether to grant permission to plant uncertified seed potatoes, recommend independent auditors to perform records reviews pursuant to
section 35-27.3-106(2); and consult with the commissioner regarding the administration and enforcement of this article ARTICLE 27.3.

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 35-27.3-108, amend (1) introductory portion, (1)(b) introductory portion, and (1)(b)(VII) as follows:

(1) In addition to any other duties in this article ARTICLE 27.3, the commissioner shall:
   (b) Adopt rules necessary for the administration and enforcement of this article ARTICLE 27.3, including rules that:
   (VII) Set a schedule of fees for services performed by the department, which fees shall be billed on a pro rata basis to the area committees for areas TO THE COMMITTEE FOR AREA no. 2, and no. 3, established in the marketing order regulating the handling of potatoes grown in the state of Colorado, as amended, issued pursuant to the "Colorado Agricultural Marketing Act of 1939", article 28 of this title TITLE 35.

SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 35-27.3-110, amend (1)(a) as follows:

35-27.3-110. Violations - civil penalties. (1) (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the commissioner may impose a civil penalty on any A person who violates any provision of this article ARTICLE 27.3 or any A rule adopted under this article. Such penalty shall not exceed two thousand five hundred dollars per violation.

SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend 35-27.3-112 as follows:

35-27.3-112. Repeal of article - termination of functions. This
ARTICLE 27.3 is repealed, effective September 1, 2019. Prior to such 2028. BEFORE THE repeal, the certification functions of the commissioner shall be reviewed as provided for in ARE SCHEDULED FOR REVIEW IN ACCORDANCE WITH section 24-34-104. C.R.S.

SECTION 8. Act subject to petition - effective date - applicability. (1) This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 2, 2019, if adjournment sine die is on May 3, 2019); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

(2) This act applies to offenses committed on or after the applicable effective date of this act.