

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 654 Senator Pinsky)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

Pesticides - Education and Reporting - Pilot Program

This bill requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to develop a pesticide illness reporting system and a one-year pilot pesticide education program. The bill also establishes an Advisory Council on Pesticide Injuries.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2001.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures could increase by approximately \$49,000 in FY 2002. Future years reflect annualization and inflation. Revenues would not be affected. Federal fund revenues and expenditures could increase based on the availability of federal funding for a pesticide education program.

(in dollars)	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	49,000	61,400	64,500	67,700	71,200
Net Effect	(\$49,000)	(\$61,400)	(\$64,500)	(\$67,700)	(\$71,200)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill requires DHMH to develop a pilot pesticide education program by December 1, 2001. The pilot program must: (1) educate health care providers in the

State about the potential adverse effects of exposure to pesticides; (2) make available information about how residents can minimize the risk of exposure to pesticides that can cause acute or chronic health effects; (3) inform residents about the use of “adulticides” by State or local agencies through all local media at least two days before the adulticides are used for public health priorities and immediately for a public health emergency and, at the beginning of mosquito season when adulticides are used to control mosquitoes; and (4) educate residents about the risks of adverse health effects from exposure to pesticides used by State agencies. This information must be provided through the Internet and a toll-free hotline. The duration of the pilot program may not exceed one year and is subject to the availability of funding from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

“Adulticide” means a pesticide designated to kill adult insects but that may be capable of killing all life stages of insects.

The bill also requires DHMH to develop a pesticide illness reporting system by December 1, 2001. The reporting system is a comprehensive effort to collect, summarize, and interpret a standard set of data describing incidents of pesticide poisoning or conditions and diseases that a health care provider knows or reasonably believes to be caused or exacerbated by exposure to pesticides. In so doing, DHMH is required to establish sentinel medical centers around the State and adopt regulations requiring health care providers in these centers to report suspected and confirmed pesticide-induced health effects. The reporting system must also be designed to accommodate health care providers who are not associated with one of the sentinel medical centers.

The bill also establishes a six-member Advisory Council on Pesticide Injuries that is to convene by September 1, 2001 and terminate within six months thereafter. Before the council terminates, DHMH must submit a proposed plan for implementing the pesticide education program and the pesticide illness reporting system to the Governor, the Governor’s Pesticide Council, and the General Assembly. By August 31, 2002 DHMH must prepare a report of pesticide illness reporting system data and of pesticide education and public information program activity. This report must be submitted to the Governor and to the Governor’s Pesticide Council and must be made available to the public.

Current Law: The Maryland Department of Agriculture is responsible for notifying residents about the use of adulticides for mosquito control.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures could increase by \$49,048 in fiscal 2002, which reflects a 90-day start-up delay. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one full-time epidemiologist to implement and maintain the pesticide illness reporting system. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$40,724
Other Operating Expenses	<u>8,324</u>
Total FY 2002 State Expenditures	\$49,048

Future year expenditures reflect: (1) full salaries with a 6.5% increase in fiscal 2003 and a 4.5% increase each year thereafter, with 3% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

Federal fund expenditures and revenues could increase by up to \$304,725 in fiscal 2002, the estimated cost of implementing and maintaining the one-year pilot program, should any such funds be awarded to the State by the CDC.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Agriculture, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – March 9, 2001
cm/jr Revised – Senate Third Reader – March 26, 2001

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