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Vice Chair  
Education, Health, and  
Environmental Affairs Committee

Joint Audit Committee  
Joint Committee on Federal Relations



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**SB375: Agriculture – Neonicotinoid Pesticides – Sale and Storage**  
**Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs**  
**Hearing February 10, 2021 | 1:00 p.m.**

The use of neonicotinoid pesticides [significantly harms bee populations](#) worldwide. In 2015 alone, Maryland beekeepers lost 61 percent of their colonies to the use of this pesticide.

In 2016, the General Assembly enacted the Pollinator Protection Act ([SB198/HB211](#)), prohibiting the use of neonicotinoid pesticides by unauthorized persons, such as home gardeners. It was later discovered that this legislation did not **prohibit the sale** of neonicotinoids within retail stores. Consumers are able to purchase the harmful pesticide without knowing that they had done so illegally.

[SB375](#) would require retail stores to relocate neonicotinoids so that they will only be available upon request. Certified applicators will know to ask staff to retrieve the pesticide. The at-home gardener will not know the difference.

The Maryland Retailers Association brought to our attention that there aren't many retail store "counters" anymore. We agreed to a modest amendment, removing "behind the counter," which does not alter the intention of the bill.

The inadvertent use of neonicotinoids is slowly erasing the pollinator population-- a significant component of our ecosystem. Simply relocating these products will reduce the detrimental effects on our bees and therefore our environment.

**I urge a favorable report of SB375 as amended.**



**SB0375/933621/1**

AMENDMENTS  
PREPARED  
BY THE  
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE  
SERVICES

03 FEB 21  
12:07:10

BY: Senator Kagan  
(To be offered in the Education, Health, and Environmental  
Affairs Committee)

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 375  
(First Reading File Bill)

On page 3, in lines 10 and 11, strike “**BEHIND THE COUNTER AND**”.