

ANNE HEALEY  
Legislative District 22  
Prince George's County

Chair  
Rules and Executive  
Nominations Committee

Environment and Transportation  
Committee

Chair  
Local Government and  
Bi-County Issues Subcommittee



## THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

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Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice Chairman and Members of the Committee...In the 2016 session we passed the *Pollinator Protection Act* (HB 211) and restricted lawn and property application of neonicotinoid pesticides by untrained homeowners.

In this landmark piece of legislation, we also sought to limit retail sales of these products to untrained homeowners by restricting sales in retail stores that did not have licenses to sell restricted use products. Farm stores and other stores with restricted-use licenses could sell the products to their farmer and trained applicator customers as usual.

In the past five (5) years the marketplace in Maryland has changed, and unfortunately it turns out that many stores obtained restricted use licenses or went out and secured such licenses for the purpose of getting around the restriction. As a result, we know neonicotinoids are on the shelves everywhere – right next to the other pesticides, with no information for consumers that they are unlawful.

House Bill 208 proposes a simple fix by restricting sales to farmers and licensed applicators and requiring the products be kept out of reach to the general public. To insure compliance, it will require a store employee obtain the product for the consumer. We believe this reform restores the original spirit and intent of the law we passed in 2016.

I have a panel with me that is going to go more in depth about this legislation and how we got here.

Our panel includes:

- Eric Gally, a contract lobbyist for the Maryland Pesticide Education Network
- Bonnie Raindrop, grassroots coordinator for the Smart of Pesticides Coalition. Bonnie has investigated stores that are selling these pesticides on the shelves right next to other products.
- Dr. Hartmut Doebel, PhD, Assistant Professor of Biology at the Department of Biological Sciences at the George Washington University
- Steve McDaniel, a beekeeper since 1979; who became certified as a Master Beekeeper in 1994.

I am available for questions now or after my panel finishes speaking. I urge a favorable report and look forward to working with the committee on the bill.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Anne Healey'.

