



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary

Wes Moore, Governor

Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor

Kevin Atticks, Secretary

Steven A. Connelly, Deputy Secretary

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading
Industry

The Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building

50 Harry S Truman Parkway

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

mda.maryland.gov

410.841.5885 Baltimore/Washington

410.841.5846 Fax

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Legislative Comment

DATE: March 5, 2025

BILL NUMBER: SB 932/HB 1342

SHORT TITLE: Pesticide and Pest Control - State-Owned Property - Pesticide Use
Restrictions and Pollinator Habitat

MDA POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

This legislation as amended requires the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) to develop a model pesticide management plan for implementation on State-owned and managed land and requires each agency that manages or owns land to work with MDA to develop that plan.

MDA has an existing Managed Pollinator Protection Plan. MDA also has an existing Pesticide Management Plan for the protection of water quality. MDA currently coordinates with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Department of the Environment (MDE) on that plan to protect ground water from contamination. Creating a model pesticide and pollinator plan for agencies could easily be done by existing staff in the Pesticide Regulation Section at MDA, in coordination with the agencies that own and manage state land. DNR, the Maryland Environmental Service (MES), and the State Highway Administration (SHA) are among other agencies that own and manage state land.

As amended, the bill exempts Department of Natural Resources (DNR) owned and managed properties. DNR owns more land than any other agency, approximately 480,000 acres. MDA owns no land. DNR has an existing Pollinator Plan that is utilized to manage parks, forests, wildlife management areas, and natural environments, as each property has different needs. Their comprehensive plan specifies under what circumstances pesticides are applied and the methods by which those pesticides can be applied.

MDA is mindful that there may be additional costs for agencies in using alternative pesticides that MDA may recommend. Many current products on the market today have restrictions for applications to areas where certain pollinators may be foraging. Utilizing currently

approved pesticides according to the label, allows agencies to keep costs down while still protecting pollinators and their habitat. MDA will coordinate with agencies accordingly to develop pesticide management plans that meet the specific needs of the managed sites in a manner that is cost effective.

MDA appreciates the Committee's consideration and requests a favorable report.

If you have additional questions, please contact Rachel Jones, Director of Government Relations, at rachel.jones2@maryland.gov or 410-841-5886.