



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

House Bill 91

Agriculture – Neonicotinoid Pesticides – Prohibitions

Date: February 4, 2026

To: House Environment & Transportation Committee

Position: **FAVORABLE**

From: Gussie Maguire
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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS House Bill 91** which would prohibit the use, sale, and distribution of neonicotinoid-coated seeds for corn, wheat, and soybeans in Maryland and prohibit the use of neonicotinoid pesticides on ornamental plants and turf. Neonicotinoid pesticides, in the form of seed coatings or conventional applications, pose serious risk to critical pollinator species, including wild and managed honeybees, and to aquatic organisms, including larval blue crabs.

Maryland has historically led the way on reducing harm from neonicotinoid pesticides by banning the sale of these pesticides for residential use. However, we are now playing catch-up to states like Vermont and New York, which have already passed legislation similar to HB 91. New York's legislation allowed state regulators to waive the ban on coated seeds should the need arise due to pest pressure, a provision also included in HB 91. To date, this authority has not been exercised.

Multiple studies show that neonicotinoid-coated seeds provide few and inconsistent benefits while contributing to declines in beneficial insect species populations, including those that naturally control pest species on farms, and cause cascading impacts to aquatic insects, fish, birds, and other species within the food web¹. The myriad studied and documented ecological harms stemming from the use of neonicotinoid-coated seeds far outweigh their limited benefits.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 91.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

¹ Perdue University College of Agriculture: [Agricultural & Environmental Letters](#)