

Summary of HB-6916 - An Act Concerning the Use of Neonicotinoids

The proposed legislation, General Assembly Raised Bill No. 6916, aims to restrict the use of neonicotinoids, a class of pesticides, in various commercial and agricultural applications to protect public health and the environment. Effective January 1, 2028, the bill prohibits the application of neonicotinoids on golf courses, lawns, playing fields, outdoor ornamental plants, state or municipal properties, and certain crops (corn, wheat, and soybean), with an exception for structural pest management near building foundations. The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection is granted the authority to suspend these restrictions during an environmental emergency if specific criteria are met, including the effectiveness of neonicotinoids in addressing the emergency without causing unreasonable adverse effects.

Additionally, starting January 1, 2029, the bill prohibits the distribution or sale of agricultural seeds treated with neonicotinoids unless a waiver is issued by the Commissioner of Agriculture, contingent upon the completion of integrated pest management training and a pest risk assessment. The bill also repeals and replaces existing regulations regarding best practices for minimizing airborne neonicotinoid dust from treated seeds, incorporating new definitions and guidelines. The overall intent of the bill is to mitigate the environmental impact of neonicotinoids while allowing for their controlled use in specific circumstances.

Statutes affected:

Raised Bill: 22-61k