

NO. 141. AN ACT RELATING TO THE PESTICIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL, FUNDING THE COUNCIL, AND PROVIDING PUBLIC INFORMATION ON THE USE OF PESTICIDES.

(H.851)

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 6 V.S.A. § 1102 is amended to read:

§ 1102. PESTICIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL ESTABLISHED

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(c) The ~~chairman~~ chair of the council shall be designated by the governor and serve as his or her personal representative, and shall coordinate activities on the council.

(d) The functions of the council are:

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(2) To serve as the advisory group to state agencies having responsibilities for the use ~~and dispersal~~ of pesticides as well as to other state agencies and departments.

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(6) To recommend studies necessary for the performance of its functions as established under this section.

(7) To recommend benchmarks with respect to the state goal of achieving an overall reduction in the use of pesticides consistent with sound pest or vegetative management practices, and to issue an annual report to the general assembly, detailing the state's progress in reaching those benchmarks and attaining that goal. The benchmarks should be designed to enable evaluation of multiple indicators of pesticide usage, use patterns, and

associated risks. Benchmarks should take into consideration, but shall not be limited to, the following:

(A) Reducing the amount of acreage where pesticides are used.

(B) Reducing the risks associated with the use of pesticides.

(C) Increasing the acreage managed by means of integrated pest management techniques.

(D) Decreasing, within each level of comparable risk, the quantity of pesticides applied per acre.

(E) Recommendations regarding the implementation of other management practices that result in decreased pesticide use.

(e) The council shall meet semiannually, once in the fall and once in the spring. Meetings at other times may be called by the governor, by the chair or by a member of the council. Attendance at council meetings shall not be required of the commissioners of departments within the agency of natural resources, or their designees; however, at least one of these commissioners, or the commissioner's designee, shall attend each meeting of the council. Council proceedings shall be open to the public and its deliberations shall be recorded and made available to the public, along with its work product.

Sec. 2. 6 V.S.A. § 918(b) is amended to read:

(b) The registrant shall pay an annual fee of ~~\$70.00~~ \$75.00 for each product registered which shall be deposited in the special fund created in section 929 of this title, of which \$5.00 from each product registration shall be used for an

educational program related to the proper purchase, application and disposal of household pesticides, and ~~\$10.00~~ \$5.00 from each product registration shall be used to collect and dispose of obsolete and unwanted pesticides. The annual registration year shall be from December 1 to November 30 of the following year.

Sec. 3. 6 V.S.A. § 1104 is amended to read:

§ 1104. POWERS OF COMMISSIONER

The commissioner in furtherance of the purposes of this chapter may:

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(17) Make information reported to the department relative to the use of pesticides available to the public via the internet or in any other way deemed appropriate, and may allow the required reporting of pesticide use data to be submitted electronically.

Sec. 4. APPROPRIATION; POSITION ADDED

The sum of \$60,000.00 is appropriated from the special fund established in 6 V.S.A. § 929 to the department of agriculture, food and markets to establish one new classified position in the department which will coordinate activities associated with the providing of data to the public via the internet and support the administrative activities of the pesticide advisory council.

Approved: May 24, 2000