

**Testimony of
Environment and Human Health, Inc.**

By
Nancy Alderman, President

Bills No. 914, 916, 917, 6440

Senator Ed Meyer, Representative Linda Gentile, and Members of the Environment Committee:

Environment and Human Health, Inc is in strong support of all four Bills.

S.B. 914 AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES AT MUNICIPAL PARKS. This is important for protecting our smallest children from unnecessary pesticide exposures.

S.B. 916 AN ACT AUTHORIZING CIVIL PENALTIES FOR THE FAULTY, CARELESS OR NEGLIGENT APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES. This affords the state better options when giving a penalty for an applicator spraying pesticides on the wrong property. The penalty now is too onerous – and in fact revokes the applicator’s license.

S.B. 917 AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE USE OF CERTAIN MICROBIAL AND BIOCHEMICAL PESTICIDES AND GRUB CONTROL PRODUCTS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS. These are important tools to have when maintaining grounds organically.

H.B. 6440 AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPALITIES AND THE APPLICATION OF LAWN CARE PESTICIDES. This will give towns the ability to have stricter lawn-care methods than the state – and yet it allows the state’s to have oversight over what municipalities are doing. This is a very important tool for towns – especially for their sensitive areas – such as their lands over aquifers.

We would like to take our 3 minutes to address S.B. 916 AN ACT AUTHORIZING CIVIL PENALTIES FOR THE FAULTY, CARELESS OR NEGLIGENT APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES.

At the present time, the only way the state has to punish pesticide owner/operators who apply pesticides to the wrong property is to revoke their license. This is too onerous a penalty for such an occurrence. This Bill will benefit both the state and the pesticide applicators by allowing the state to give a civil penalty fine in the form of monetary fine instead of revoking the pesticide applicator’s license.

This Bill will afford the state far more flexibility in its ability to give a just penalty that will better fit the infraction, as well as protect the pesticide applicator from the possibility of loosing his or her license. No one should lose a license over this violation – and yet there needs to be a punishment. This Bill answers that issue. All parties should be pleased with this Bill.

Nancy Alderman, President, Environment and Human Health, Inc, February 25, 2013