OLR Bill Analysis
HB 5999

AN ACT CONCERNING PESTICIDE REGULATION IN THE STATE.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner to do the following:

1. adopt regulations to regulate online purchases of restricted use pesticides and
2. implement an electronic reporting and recordkeeping system for pesticide registrations and pesticide applicator permits and certifications.

The bill also establishes a separate, nonlapsing “pesticide enforcement account” within the General Fund to be used for (1) regulating pesticides and (2) performing any required pesticide inspections or enforcement activities related to DEEP’s pesticide regulation. The bill requires all funds collected from registering pesticides with DEEP to be deposited into the account. (Existing law sets a $940 fee for registering a pesticide or renewing a registration, and registrations generally last for five years (CGS § 22a-50(g)). The bill also allows for the account to receive funds from other sources, including from a municipal government or the federal government.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019, except the provision establishing the pesticide enforcement account is effective July 1, 2019.

REGULATION OF ONLINE PESTICIDE PURCHASES

The bill requires the DEEP commissioner, by October 1, 2020, to adopt regulations on:

1. regulating online purchases of restricted use pesticides to assure that the pesticides are not purchased and applied by persons
unauthorized to have or apply them, and

2. implementing and conducting a monitoring program to accurately and effectively determine pesticide levels in soil, water, and the state’s natural resources, including wildlife.

By law, a pesticide is any substance or mixture of substances (1) used to prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate a pest or (2) intended for use as a plant regulator, defoliant, or desiccant (CGS § 22a-47(w)). A restricted use pesticide is classified as restricted by the federal Environmental Protection Agency or the DEEP commissioner because it may cause unreasonable adverse health or environmental effects (CGS §§ 22a-47(cc) and 22a-50). To purchase a restricted use pesticide, the law requires that the purchaser be certified by DEEP as either a private applicator (i.e., for agricultural crops) or as a supervisor commercial applicator.

ELECTRONIC REPORTING AND RECORDKEEPING

The bill requires the DEEP commissioner, by December 1, 2021, to use an electronic reporting and recordkeeping system for (1) pesticide registrations and (2) private and commercial pesticide applicator permits and certifications. The system must be able to improve DEEP’s ability to make data on the use of pesticides in the state publicly available.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 28 Nay 1 (03/25/2019)