Bill No.: HB-7346
Title: AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF CERTAIN ORGANOPHOSPHATES.
Vote Date: 3/25/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 3/18/2019
File No.: 621

Disclaimer: The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.

SPONSORS OF BILL:
Environment Committee
Rep. David Michel, 146th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:
In Connecticut, Chlorpyrifos is a restricted use broad-spectrum organophosphate pesticide used only by individuals who are certified under state law, or directly supervised by such individual. Studies have shown that exposure to low levels of chlorpyrifos in early life can lead to increased risk of learning disabilities in children and may cause other neurodevelopmental effects. Additionally, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cautions users that chlorpyrifos can cause cholinesterase inhibition. As a result, the EPA banned the use of chlorpyrifos from home use (in products such as roach sprays) in 2000. While banned from home use, chlorpyrifos is still widely used in agriculture. Concerns shared with the committee included the risk of exposure of chlorpyrifos to the farmworkers, children of farmworkers, and other rural residents. The bill seeks to address such concerns by prohibiting the sale, distribution, use, or application of chlorpyrifos.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:
Melody A. Currey, Acting Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Agriculture: Opposes the bill. Chlorpyrifos is an important seed treatment to control pests in certain crops such as sweet corn, dry beans, garden beans and other vegetables. Banning chlorpyrifos may result in significant losses of vegetable and specialty crops.
Katie S. Dykes, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection: Opposes the bill. Chlorpyrifos is a critical pesticide used, with very few alternatives, for some agricultural uses including tobacco and apple crops. Additionally, full implementation of a ban as proposed in the bill will be difficult to accomplished by the timeframe prescribed due to existing statutory requirements for notification and other conditions.

Raul Pino, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Public Health: Provided comment on the bill. While the bill is not specific to pesticide use within public drinking water supply areas, prohibiting the use of harmful pesticides could benefit water quality and protect public drinking water sources.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Beyond Pesticides: Researchers, medical professionals, and scientists at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have concluded that chlorpyrifos has long-term adverse impact on the developing brains of children. A 2016 meeting of the Scientific Advisory Panel convened by the EPA concluded that there is an association between chlorpyrifos prenatal exposure and neurodevelopmental outcomes in children.

Bruce Gould MD, Associate Dean for Primary Care, University of Connecticut, School of Medicine: In 2000 the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) banned the residential application of chlorpyrifos due to “emerging evidence that is posed unacceptable neurodevelopmental risks to young children”. However, the EPA continues to allow chlorpyrifos in agricultural applications, thus, exposing farmworkers, their children, and rural residents to this pesticide. Extensive epidemiologic research conducted confirms serious permanent neurodevelopmental effects of extremely low doses of chlorpyrifos exposure in utero or during childhood. Farmworkers and their families cannot be protected from serious health issues unless chlorpyrifos is banned in Connecticut. Chlorpyrifos cannot be adequately protected from drift or direct exposure. Additionally, this pesticide can be absorbed through the skin, breathed in, or ingested. A 2014 study of 371 migrant farmworkers in North Carolina were found to have urinary chlorpyrifos metabolites and other pesticides an order of magnitude greater than those found in the US population.

Tiffany Finck-Haynes, Pesticides and Pollinators Program Manager, Friends of the Earth: Chlorpyrifos is particularly toxic to children. The 2012 National Academy of Science Journal publication shows chlorpyrifos can cause brain damage in children and causes reduced IQ, loss of working memory, deficit disorders and delayed motor development. Farmers, farmworkers, and rural communities are at increased risk of exposure. Although reversed by the current U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administration, the EPA had previously deemed chlorpyrifos so dangerous that it recommended a ban on the pesticide.

Jenn Harkins, Educational Advisor, Eagle Hill School: Even at low levels of concentration, organophosphates pesticides have been shown to cause learning and developmental disabilities in children. Multiple scientific studies show pregnant mother’s exposure to organophosphate pesticides show a strong association with learning and behaviors in the child. The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (collected by
the United States Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention detected chlorpyrifos in 91% child bearing age women. According to the CDC, these high levels of detectable chlorpyrifos are coming from the food these women consumed.

**Patrick M. Comins, Executive Director, The Connecticut Audubon Society:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires a label on chlorpyrifos to inform users that “Chlorpyrifos is moderately to very highly toxic to birds... chlorpyrifos is very highly toxic to freshwater fish, aquatic invertebrates and estuarine and marine organisms... aquatic and general agricultural uses of chlorpyrifos may be extremely poisonous to wildlife and honeybees...” Labeling cautions are required for chlorpyrifos due to the persistent and accumulative effects of the pesticide. Due to the dangers of chlorpyrifos, the pesticide should be banned.

*The Environment Committee received approximately 20 written testimonies supporting the bill explaining that (1) chlorpyrifos have been linked to neurodevelopmental effects in children, and (2) the produce is already banned from home use by the Environmental Protection Agency.*

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**David R. Golembeski, Superintendent, Pomperaug Golf Club:** Chlorpyrifos is an effective tool in the Pomperaug Gold Club uses as part of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection already restricts chlorpyrifos to “licensed supervisor applicators” to purchase and for application. Furthermore, the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection (EPA) has regulatory authority over this product. If chlorpyrifos was dangerous, the EPA would ban the pesticide like other pesticides currently banned by the agency.

*Reported by: Steve Smith / Ussawin R. Bumpen  Date: 04/16/2019*