
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 239

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF CERTAIN RODENTICIDES FOR THE PROTECTION OF HAWKS, RAPTORS AND OTHER WILDLIFE.

SUMMARY

This bill prohibits the use of “second generation anticoagulant rodenticides” (i.e., pesticide products containing brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difenacoum, or difethialone, see BACKGROUND) in state parks, wildlife refuges, forests, or conservancies. It also requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to:

1. encourage federal agencies in Connecticut to comply with the ban and
2. adopt regulations on the continued use of these rodenticides to ensure that it is not reasonably expected to have significant adverse effects on nontarget wildlife, including provisions for the rodenticides’ use if it is necessary to eradicate invasive rodent populations to protect threatened or endangered species or their habitats.

The bill exempts from the rodenticide ban several uses and locations, such as use by state employees for public health or public water supply protection reasons, agricultural activity, and at a medical waste generator.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2022

RODENTICIDE EXEMPTIONS

The bill exempts eight locations and uses from its ban. The exempt locations are (1) medical waste generators and (2) drug or device production facilities that are annually registered, subject to inspection under the federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. § 360 et seq.), and comply with the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide

Act (7 U.S.C. § 135 et seq.). Exempt uses are the following:

1. a state employee within the scope of his or her duties (a) for public health activities conducted in accordance with the Public Health Code or (b) to protect water supply infrastructure and facilities in a way that is consistent with federal and state laws and regulations;
2. a health director to control mosquito or vector breeding areas to protect public health;
3. to eradicate nonnative invasive species inhabiting or found on offshore islands in a way that is consistent with federal and state laws and regulations;
4. to control an actual or potential rodent infestation associated with a public health need that the public health commissioner or a health director determines by a supporting declaration; and
5. for agricultural activities, including those done at a warehouse for storing foods for human or animal consumption; factory, brewery, winery, or an agricultural production site (e.g., slaughterhouses or canneries), including a site housing water storage or conveyance facilities or housing rights-of-way and other transportation infrastructure.

Under the bill, a “public health need” is an urgent, nonroutine situation posing a significant risk to human health. It must also be documented that other rodent control methods, including nonchemical ones, are inadequate to control the infestation.

BACKGROUND

Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticide

Most rodenticides are anticoagulant compounds that interfere with blood clotting and cause death from excessive bleeding. Second-generation anticoagulants were developed to control rodents that are resistant to first-generation anticoagulants. These pesticides are more likely to be effective after a single feeding and may remain in animal

tissue longer than first-generation products. They are registered only for the commercial and structural pest control markets.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 31 Nay 0 (03/21/2022)