



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LEGISLATIVE COMMENT

DATE: 3/9/2017 BILL NO.: SB - 932

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE – ATRAZINE STUDY

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

MDA POSITION: LETTER OF INFORMATION

EXPLANATION: The herbicide Atrazine has been vital to the farm economy for many years and has been a fundamental in increasing corn, sorghum, and sugarcane production. In addition, it helps reduce soil erosion through conservation tillage. Its use supports good environmental practices such as no-till farming.

COMMENT: The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) regulates pesticides that are offered for sale or use in Maryland in two ways. MDA's State Chemist Section's regulations require that all pesticide products must be registered with their Section before they can be offered for sale or use in Maryland. In addition, their Statute allows their program to issue a Stop-sale on any pesticide product that has been found to cause unreasonable adverse effects to humans, animals, or the environment.

MDA's Pesticide Regulation Section regulates commercial pest control companies and permitted public agencies. They are required to obtain and maintain an annual license and employ a certified applicator for those pest control categories for which they are offering to do pest control services. The Pesticide Regulation Section conducts routine inspections with pest control firms to make sure they are using pesticides in strict accordance with the label direction on the pesticide product. Failure to do so is a violation of the Maryland Pesticide Regulations, as well as, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as, Amended