



Maryland Department of Agriculture

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Maryland Department of Agriculture

Legislative Comment

Date: January 29, 2021

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 208
SHORT TITLE: Agriculture – Neonicotinoid Pesticides – Sale and Storage
MDA POSITION: Information

House Bill 208 establishes that a neonicotinoid pesticide may only be sold at retail to a “certified applicator,” as currently defined, or a farmer. The bill also requires a retailer to store neonicotinoid pesticides behind the counter and in a manner that is inaccessible to customers without assistance.

Currently, the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Regulation Section's inspectors monitor marketplaces and dealers for compliance. Outreach and education is done by both the Pesticide Regulation's inspectors and University of Maryland Extension via recertification/training meetings. Inspectors have also been distributing the fact sheet that is available on MDA's website at mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Documents/PollinatorProtectionActFactSheet.pdf.

HB 208 will not have a major impact on current activities or practices. However, it will initially require additional outreach and training of both staff and the regulated community, and will require additional inspections and/or require additional time to complete our inspections for compliance. It will put an extra onus on the permitted retailers - who have already struggled through the COVID-19 pandemic - to make certain the regulated products can be kept off the sales floor and are not available to the general public.

If you have additional questions, please contact Cassie Shirk, Director of Legislation and Governmental Affairs, at cassie.shirk@maryland.gov or 410-841-5886.