
**Select Committee on
Environmental Health**

HB 1810

Brief Description: Creating a project to monitor pesticide drift and its impact.

Sponsors: Representatives Hudgins, Hunt, Chase, Kenney, Santos, Campbell, Schual-Berke, Dickerson, B. Sullivan, McIntire, Roberts, Wood and Moeller.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires the Department of Health to conduct a pilot project to monitor and collect data on pesticides in the air in agricultural areas resulting from pesticide drift.
- Requires the Department of Health to submit a report to the legislature by April 1, 2009, on the pilot project findings and recommendations for public policies and program activities to protect human health from pesticide drift.

Hearing Date: 2/6/07

Staff: Brad Avy (786-7289).

Background:

Pesticide drift means off target migration of pesticides, during or after applications, including migration that occurs through volatilization and through winds transporting dust contaminated with pesticides.

When pesticide solutions are sprayed by ground spray equipment or aircraft, droplets are produced by the nozzles of the equipment. Many of these droplets can be so small that they stay suspended in air and are carried by air currents until they contact a surface or drop to the ground. A number of factors influence drift, including weather conditions, topography, the crop or area being sprayed, application equipment and methods, and decisions by the applicator.

The drift of spray from pesticide applications can expose people, wildlife, and the environment to pesticide residues that can cause human health and environmental effects and property damage.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for regulating the use of pesticides at the national level. The Department of Agriculture, the Department of Labor and Industries, and the Department of Ecology regulate pesticides in Washington state.

Summary of Bill:

The legislature finds that discussion of public policies, enforcement activities, and educational programs related to pesticides should be based on sound science and must include data on the types and concentrations of pesticides in the air. Workers, business owners, and other people have the right to know about pesticides in the air with which they and their children may come in contact.

The Department of Health is required to conduct a pilot monitoring project on pesticide drift. The purpose of this project is to use the data in evaluating the human health implications to workers and the public of airborne pesticides in agricultural areas.

Monitoring results will be made accessible to the public and reported to policy makers and the public as part of the annual Pesticide Incident Reporting and Tracking (PIRT) report.

The department must submit a report to the legislature by April 1, 2009, pilot project findings and recommendations for public policies and program activities to protect human health from pesticide drift.

The department shall consult with and is authorized to negotiate interagency agreements as appropriate with the Department of Ecology, the Department of Agriculture, the University of Washington, and Washington State University to assist in carrying out the project.

The bill is null and void if funding is not provided by June 30, 2007.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 30, 2007.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.