
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6529

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Senate Labor & Commerce (originally sponsored by Senators Saldaña, Ranker, Cleveland, Rolfes, Van De Wege, Miloscia, Chase, Conway, McCoy, Hunt, Keiser, and Hasegawa)

READ FIRST TIME 02/01/18.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a modernizing pesticide
2 notification work group; and creating new sections.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that pesticide
5 exposure can result in acute and chronic health problems for
6 agricultural workers. Further, the legislature finds that drift from
7 pesticide spray applications is a source of pesticide exposure and
8 poses risks to community members in the vicinity of the pesticide
9 application. Lack of knowledge and communication is a major
10 contributing factor to pesticide drift exposure incidents. The
11 legislature therefore declares that agricultural workers and
12 surrounding community members should be protected from pesticide
13 exposure and notified of certain pesticide applications to prevent
14 unnecessary exposure.

15 (2) The legislature further finds that the public has an interest
16 in information about pesticide applications in order to advance
17 knowledge related to public health and welfare, protect public
18 health, and prevent pesticide-related illness.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A modernizing pesticide notification
20 work group is established to develop recommendations for:

1 (a) A notification system to allow for sufficient notice to
2 people on neighboring property, including schools, day care and other
3 child care facilities, and farm workers so that they may avoid
4 pesticide drift exposure; and

5 (b) Reporting pesticide application records to the state.

6 (2) The work group is composed of:

7 (a) One member and one alternate from each of the two largest
8 caucuses in the senate, who shall be appointed by majority leader and
9 minority leader of the senate;

10 (b) One member and one alternate from each of the two largest
11 caucuses in the house of representatives, who shall be appointed by
12 the speaker and the minority leader of the house of representatives;

13 (c) One representative from each of the following agencies: (i)
14 The department of agriculture, (ii) the department of health, (iii)
15 the department of labor and industries, (iv) the department of
16 natural resources, and (v) the commission on Hispanic affairs;

17 (d) The superintendent of public instruction or the
18 superintendent's designee from the office of the superintendent of
19 public instruction; and

20 (e) No more than ten members, appointed jointly by the secretary
21 of the department of health and the director of the department of
22 agriculture, representing the following:

23 (i) The agricultural industry;

24 (ii) Pesticide applicators;

25 (iii) Labor community;

26 (iv) Environmental advocacy organizations;

27 (v) The Washington state parent-teacher organization;

28 (vi) Farm worker advocacy organizations; and

29 (vii) Child health advocacy organizations.

30 (3) In addition to the members appointed to the modernizing
31 pesticide notification work group under subsection (2) of this
32 section, the University of Washington Latino center for health, the
33 Washington State University urban IPM and pesticide safety education,
34 and other experts and technical advisors may be invited by the
35 secretary of the department of health or the director of the
36 department of agriculture. Individuals participating in an advisory
37 capacity under this subsection are not members of the work group.
38 There is no limit to the number of individuals who may participate in
39 work group meetings in an advisory capacity under this subsection.

1 (4) The work group must develop recommendations for a pesticide
2 drift exposure notification system that will:

3 (a) Allow for safe and efficient notification of interested
4 parties, including children, parents, adjacent property owners, and
5 neighboring farm workers;

6 (b) Identify and maintain minimum notification time frames that
7 would still allow for protection of interested parties from drift;
8 and

9 (c) Allow for free and accessible notification of interested
10 parties.

11 (5) The work group must also:

12 (a) Explore the effectiveness of the Washington state department
13 of agriculture pesticide sensitivity registry and consider whether to
14 recommend that the registry be expanded to include the interested
15 parties described in subsection (4) of this section; and

16 (b) Develop recommendations for a pesticide use reporting system
17 that will allow certified applicators and employers to efficiently
18 and cost-effectively report to a state agency the records required to
19 be kept for each pesticide application under RCW 17.21.100 and
20 49.70.119.

21 (6) The work group shall be cochaired by the secretary of the
22 department of health and the director of the department of
23 agriculture, or their designees.

24 (7) Staff support for the work group must be provided by the
25 departments of health and agriculture.

26 (8) Legislative members of the work group are reimbursed for
27 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
28 members are not entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses if they
29 are elected officials or are participating on behalf of an employer,
30 governmental entity, or other organization. Any reimbursement for
31 other nonlegislative members is subject to chapter 43.03 RCW.

32 (9) The expenses of the work group must be paid jointly by the
33 senate and the house of representatives. Work group expenditures are
34 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee
35 and the house of representatives executive rules committee, or their
36 successor committees.

37 (10) The work group shall meet a minimum of once a month until it
38 has provided the report required by subsection (11) of this section.

1 (11) The work group shall provide a report that shall include any
2 findings, recommendations, and draft legislation, to the governor and
3 the appropriate committees of the legislature, by November 1, 2018.

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