
ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6529

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

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

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/18.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a pesticide application safety
2 work group; creating new sections; and providing expiration dates.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that farmers,
5 farmworkers, and the broader community share an interest in
6 minimizing human exposure to pesticide.

7 (2) The legislature recognizes that huge gains in minimizing
8 human exposure have been made by the agricultural industry through a
9 combination of scientific advancements, ongoing education and
10 training, usage of safety equipment, improved technologies, and
11 proper monitoring and regulation. In 2014, the legislature created a
12 temporary farm work group that included representatives of both
13 growers and workers. The 2014 farm work group jointly identified
14 administrative recommendations to minimize public health issues posed
15 by pesticide drift. The 2014 farm work group recognized that
16 following necessary operating procedures and best management
17 practices, thorough operator training, and good communication
18 prevents or greatly reduces pesticide drift exposure. Through such
19 collaborative efforts, the state has had significant gains in
20 decreasing pesticide exposure on farms.

1 (3) The legislature finds that collaboration between state
2 agencies and the farming community can assist in further minimizing
3 exposure of agricultural workers to pesticide drift.

4 (4) This section expires December 31, 2018.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A pesticide application safety work
6 group is established to develop recommendations for improving the
7 safety of pesticide applications. The work group shall:

8 (a) Review existing state and federal laws regulating pesticide
9 safety and application;

10 (b) Arrange for a presentation on new pesticide application
11 technology and review other technologies used throughout the nation
12 to increase pesticide application safety;

13 (c) Review the structure of the former pesticide incident
14 reporting and tracking review panel created under RCW 70.104.080
15 (repealed) to determine whether a similar group should be created;
16 and

17 (d) Review current data and reports from Washington state
18 agencies and relevant agencies in other states that may be helpful in
19 developing strategies to improve pesticide application safety.

20 (2) The work group is composed of:

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

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

27 (c) One representative from each of the following agencies:

28 (i) The department of agriculture;

29 (ii) The department of health;

30 (iii) The department of labor and industries;

31 (iv) The department of natural resources; and

32 (v) The commission on Hispanic affairs.

33 (3)(a) The secretary of the department of health and the director
34 of the department of agriculture may invite individuals to
35 participate in the work group in an advisory capacity. There is no
36 limit to the number of individuals who may participate in work group
37 meetings in an advisory capacity under this subsection.

38 (b) The following may have an interest in participating in an
39 advisory role:

1 (i) An organization representing producers of a crop that uses
2 airblast sprayers;
3 (ii) An organization representing producers of a crop that uses
4 fumigation;
5 (iii) An organization representing producers of a crop that uses
6 aerial application;
7 (iv) An organization representing timber producers;
8 (v) An aerial applicator or pilot;
9 (vi) An organization representing farmworkers;
10 (vii) An organization representing labor;
11 (viii) An organization representing children's health advocacy;
12 (ix) An organization representing environmental interests;
13 (x) The University of Washington Latino center for health; and
14 (xi) Washington State University.
15 (4) The work group shall be cochaired by two of the legislative
16 members, one from each major party and one from each house.
17 (5) Staff support for the work group must be provided by the
18 department of health and the department of agriculture.
19 (6) Legislative members of the work group are reimbursed for
20 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
21 members are not entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses if they
22 are elected officials or are participating on behalf of an employer,
23 governmental entity, or other organization. Any reimbursement for
24 other nonlegislative members is subject to chapter 43.03 RCW.
25 (7) The work group shall provide a report that includes any
26 findings, recommendations, and draft legislation, to the governor and
27 the appropriate committees of the legislature, by November 1, 2018.
28 (8) This section expires December 31, 2018.

--- END ---