

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 151
Version: As introduced

DATE: February 5, 2013

Authors: Hansen

Subject: Pesticide applicator education and certification

Analyst: Colbey Sullivan

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd/hrd.htm.

Overview

This bill would increase the pesticide gross sales fee for five years and appropriate the additional revenue to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to update pesticide applicator training and certification materials. It would also modify the mandatory elements of MDA's pesticide education and training program.

Currently, the state levies a fee on pesticide manufacturers and dealers to pay for MDA's regulatory and education activities. MDA assesses the fee on pesticide sales. The fee amount and incidence differ for agricultural and nonagricultural (e.g, home and garden) pesticides. The agricultural fee is calculated as .55 percent of gross sales and is paid by pesticide dealers. The nonagricultural fee is .5 percent of gross sales and is paid by pesticide registrants or manufacturers.

Section

- 1 Pesticide applicator education and certification.** Appropriates the proceeds of the temporary surcharge to MDA to update pesticide applicator training and certification processes and materials. Requires MDA to report annually to legislative agriculture finance committees. Sets an expiration date of June 30, 2018.
- 2 Registration application and gross sales fee.** Increases the gross sales fee for agricultural and nonagricultural pesticides by .1% for five years. States that MDA must exclude this temporary surcharge when determining whether to increase pesticide sales and product registration fees in order to generate at least \$6,600,000 in revenue each fiscal year.

Section

- 3** **Pesticide education and training.** Modifies the mandatory components of MDA's pesticide applicator education and training program. Requires MDA to consult with MnSCU and other education institutions, in addition to the University of Minnesota. Requires education and training programs to address several additional or modified topics. Specifies that the education planning committees must include applicators. Expands the requirement that training manuals and examinations discuss groundwater impacts to include surface water as well.