

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 1906
Version: As introduced

DATE: March 17, 2015

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Subject: Nursery plants; pesticide; pollinators

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Overview

This bill modifies a statute enacted in 2014 that prohibits the labeling of plants as beneficial to pollinators if the plant was treated with, and has a detectable level of, a systemic pesticide that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) believes poses a particular risk to bees and other pollinators. EPA requires that these pesticide products be labeled accordingly. This bill would replace the “detectable level” standard with a “no-observed-adverse-effect level” standard.

Section

- 1 Establishment.** Appropriates fee and penalty revenue paid by pesticide applicators, manufacturers, and distributors to MDA for enforcement of the pollinator-friendly plant labeling restriction modified in section 2. Under current law, fees and penalties paid by nursery stock dealers and retailers pays for MDA’s nursery regulatory activities.
- 2 Labeling and advertising of nursery stock.** Allows nursery stock providers to label nonhardy nursery stock correctly for hardiness. Applies the existing pollinator-friendly labeling restriction only to those who sell the plant at retail or provide the plant to an end user. Provides that a plant may be labeled or advertised as beneficial to pollinators if the concentration of systemic insecticide (as defined) in its flowers is less than or equal to the no-observed-adverse-effect level (as defined as the level established by the EPA for acute oral toxicity for adult honeybees).