

Subject Nursery stock; pesticide

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Date March 11, 2019

Overview

This bill would modify a statute that governs when nursery stock may be labeled or advertised as pollinator-friendly.

Under current law, a retailer cannot promote a plant as beneficial to pollinators if (1) the plant was treated with a systemic insecticide identified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) as posing a risk to bees and other insect pollinators, and (2) the concentration of the pesticide in the plant's flowers is greater than the acute oral toxicity threshold for adult honeybees as established by USEPA.

This bill would apply the promotion restriction to wholesalers and other plant sellers as well. It would also lower the threshold to any detectable level of the pesticide in the plant.

By making these changes, the bill would return the statute to its original form as enacted by the legislature in 2014 (Laws 2014, ch. 299, § 2). In 2015, the legislature limited the applicability of the statute to plant retailers and inserted the acute oral toxicity threshold (Laws 2015, ch. 44, § 12).