

Subject Pesticide-Treated Seed

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Overview

This bill regulates the sale, use, and disposal of seed treated (or coated) with a pesticide. Some provisions of the bill would apply only to seed treated with a neonicotinoid pesticide, while others would apply to pesticide-treated seed generally.

According to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), neonicotinoids are a class of insecticides widely used as a seed treatment for various crops.

Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | Unreasonable adverse effects on the environment.
Modifies the term “unreasonable adverse effects on the environment” for purposes of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 18B (Pesticide Control), to include effects caused by pesticide-treated seed. |
| 2 | Pesticide-treated seed.
Prohibits using, storing, handling, distributing, or disposing of pesticide-treated seed in a manner that endangers humans, food, livestock, fish, or wildlife, or that will have an unreasonable adverse effect on the environment (as defined in section 1). |
| 3 | Enhanced penalties; outdoor recreation lands.
Authorizes MDA to double financial penalties if a person’s planting of treated seed on adjacent land causes damage to a state park, wildlife management area, state trail, or other land in the state’s outdoor recreation system. |
| 4 | Treated seed.
Requires those who label and sell corn or soybean seed treated with a neonicotinoid pesticide to include a caution statement on the product label that includes specified text and an MDA-approved bee icon. |

Section	Description
5	Miscellaneous violations. Prohibits using or selling neonicotinoid-treated seed for food, feed, oil, or ethanol production.
6	Pesticide treated seed use and disposal; consumer guidance required. Requires MDA to develop and maintain consumer guidance regarding the proper use and disposal of pesticide-treated seed. Requires retailers to post MDA's guidance in a conspicuous location.
7	Waste treated seed. Defines waste treated seed for purposes of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 115A (Waste Management Act) as treated seed that is withdrawn from sale or that an end user considers unusable or waste.
8	Prohibited disposal methods. Prohibits disposing of waste treated seed in a manner that is inconsistent with any directions or warnings provided on the seed label, or by burying near water, composting, or burning in a home or other dwelling.
9	Rulemaking required. Requires the Pollution Control Agency, in consultation with MDA and the University of Minnesota, to adopt administrative rules regarding the safe and lawful disposal of waste treated seed and specifies that these rules must clearly identify the regulatory jurisdiction of state agencies and local governments.
10	Appropriation. Appropriates onetime general fund dollars to the Pollution Control Agency for the required rulemaking, and to MDA for the required consumer guidance.



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