

HB 355 -- Pesticides

Co-Sponsors: Myers, King, Whorton, Merideth

Currently, anyone who sells or commercially transports pesticides pays an annual \$15 registration fee for each product to the General Revenue Fund. This bill adds to the annual fee an additional \$100 and changes the late renewal penalty from \$5 to \$50. For each registration, \$15 is credited to the General Revenue Fund and the remainder is deposited in the Pesticide Project Fund. If the unobligated balance of the Pesticide Project Fund exceeds \$3 million, registration fees are reduced temporarily to \$15 until the fee fund balance reaches \$1 million. Pesticides must be registered as new products if there is a change in company name, trade name, active ingredient, concentration, or federal registration number.

The Pesticide Project Fund is administered by the Plant Industries Division of the Department of Agriculture. Up to 20% of the fund may be used for administration and pesticide registration. Beginning July 1, 2004, up to 80% of the fund may be used for designated projects, including pesticide education, applicator training, pesticide and water quality monitoring, container disposal initiatives, integrated pest management, and applied research on integrated pest management and water quality improvement programs related to pesticide use at the University of Missouri Agricultural Research Stations and state universities.

Allocation of project funds requires an executed memorandum of understanding between the department and the applicant. Before each fiscal year, applicants must submit proposals to the Pesticide Project Fund Grant Review Committee by March 31. Recipients must submit a project report within 30 days after the end of the fiscal year. Project revenue that is not spent or obligated reverts to the fund within 60 days after the project is completed. Recipients who fail to complete their projects as intended are to remit partial or full repayments. The department will provide an annual report to the chairpersons of the House of Representatives Agriculture and the Senate Agriculture, Parks, and Tourism Committees, or their successors.

The Pesticide Project Fund Grant Review Committee is created by the bill. Committee membership requirements, appointment, terms, and compensation are provided in the bill.

The Pesticide Project Fund provisions of the bill are to terminate January 1, 2008, and all unused moneys in the fund are to be deposited in the General Revenue Fund.

The bill also allows the department to deny, cancel, suspend, or revoke the registration of a pesticide if the product is found to be harmful to humans or the environment.