

HB 114 -- Pesticides

Co-Sponsors: Myers, Whorton

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 \$55 and changes the late renewal penalty from \$5 to \$50. For each registration, \$15 is credited to the General Revenue Fund, and the remaining moneys are deposited in the Pesticide Project Fund. If the unobligated balance of the Pesticide Project Fund exceeds \$2.5 million, registration fees are reduced temporarily to \$15 until the balance reaches \$1 million. Pesticides must be registered as new products if there is a change in company name, trade name, active ingredients, 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 at the University of Missouri agricultural research stations.

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 department 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 that 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 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Parks, and Tourism of the Senate, or their successor committees.

The Pesticide Project Fund provisions of the bill terminate January 1, 2008. All unused moneys in the fund will 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.