

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 14, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 4, 2014

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 9, 2014

SENATE BILL

No. 1117

Introduced by Senator Monning

February 19, 2014

An act to amend Sections 13142, 13144, 13145, 13148, 13149, and 13152 of the Food and Agricultural Code, relating to pesticides.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1117, as amended, Monning. Pesticide Contamination Prevention Act.

Existing law requires the registration of pesticides in this state for agricultural use, and requires a person who has registered a pesticide to submit specified information for each active ingredient in each pesticide registered. Existing law requires the Department of Pesticide Regulation to establish specific numerical values for factors relating to pesticide use and groundwater, including, among others, water solubility and field dissipation, and to post certain information on its Internet Web site for each pesticide registered. Existing law requires the Director of Pesticide Regulation to establish, by regulation, a Groundwater Protection List that includes pesticides that have the potential to pollute groundwater, and, under certain circumstances, to regulate their use.

This bill would revise the information required to be included in the Groundwater Protection List to include each active ingredient, other specified ingredient, or degradation product of a pesticide that, when applied, has the potential to pollute groundwater, and would require the director, in consultation with a specified subcommittee of the director's

pesticide registration and evaluation committee, to develop a peer reviewed method to determine that potential, as specified. The bill would require the director to regulate each active ingredient, other specified ingredient, or degradation product of a pesticide on the Groundwater Protection List that is detected and determined to be a result of lawful agricultural use, and would revise the information that the department is required to post on its Internet Web site. The bill would delete provisions requiring dealers of pesticides to make quarterly reports to the director on certain sales of pesticides to persons who are not required to file a report, as specified. The bill would make conforming and other related changes to provisions relating to the detection and regulation of active ingredients, other specified ingredients, and degradation products of pesticides.

Existing law specifies that the director may authorize the continued registration, sale, and use of a pesticide found to have migrated, including if an active ingredient is found in the groundwaters in the state, to avoid severe economic hardship on the state's agricultural industry. Existing law requires the department to conduct ongoing soil and groundwater monitoring of those pesticides for which the director has authorized continued registration, sale, and use.

This bill would require the department, for a pesticide whose continued use is allowed, to continuously review new science and data that could impact the validity of a finding that the pesticide has not polluted and does not threaten to pollute the groundwater of the state. The bill would require the department, as prescribed, to either mitigate the threat presented by the pollution or subject the pesticide again to specified review. The bill would revise the definitions applicable to the provisions above relating to pesticide contamination prevention.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 13142 of the Food and Agricultural Code
- 2 is amended to read:
- 3 13142. For purposes of this article, the following definitions
- 4 apply:
- 5 (a) "Active ingredient" has the same meaning as defined in
- 6 Section 136 of Title 7 of the United States Code.

1 (b) “Agricultural use” has the same meaning as defined in
2 Section 11408.

3 (c) “Board” means the State Water Resources Control Board.

4 (d) “Chemigation” means a method of irrigation whereby a
5 pesticide is mixed with irrigation water before the water is applied
6 to the crop or to the soil.

7 (e) “Degradation product” means a substance resulting from
8 the transformation of a pesticide by physicochemical or
9 biochemical means.

10 (f) “Groundwater protection data gap” means that, for a
11 particular pesticide, the director, after study, has been unable to
12 determine that each study required pursuant to subdivision (a) of
13 Section 13143 has been submitted or that each study submitted
14 pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 13143 is valid, complete,
15 and adequate.

16 (g) “Henry’s Law constant” is an indicator of the escaping
17 tendency of dilute solutes from water and is approximated by the
18 ratio of the vapor pressure to the water solubility at the same
19 temperature.

20 (h) “Pesticide” is defined in Section 12753.

21 (i) “Pesticide registrant” means a person that has registered a
22 pesticide pursuant to this chapter.

23 (j) “Pollute” means to introduce a pesticide product into the
24 groundwaters of the state resulting in an active ingredient, other
25 specified ingredient, or a degradation product of a pesticide above
26 a level that does not cause adverse health effects, accounting for
27 an adequate margin of safety.

28 (k) “Pollution” means the consequence of polluting.

29 (l) “Soil adsorption coefficient” is a measure of the tendency
30 of pesticides, or their biologically active transformation products,
31 to bond to the surfaces of soil particles.

32 (m) “Soil microbial zone” means the zone of the soil below
33 which the activity of microbial species is so reduced that it has no
34 significant effect on pesticide breakdown.

35 SEC. 2. Section 13144 of the Food and Agricultural Code is
36 amended to read:

37 13144. (a) The department shall establish specific numerical
38 values for water solubility, soil adsorption coefficient (Koc),
39 hydrolysis, aerobic and anaerobic soil metabolism, and field
40 dissipation. The values established by the department shall be at

1 least equal to those established by the Environmental Protection
2 Agency. The department shall revise the numerical values when
3 the department finds that the revision is necessary to protect the
4 groundwater of the state. The numerical values established or
5 revised by the department shall always be at least as stringent as
6 the values being used by the Environmental Protection Agency at
7 the time the values are established or revised by the department.

8 (b) On or before December 31, 2004, and updated at least
9 annually thereafter, the director shall post the following information
10 on the department's Internet Web site for each pesticide registered
11 for agricultural use and during years that specific numerical values
12 are revised:

13 (1) A list of each active ingredient, other specified ingredient,
14 or degradation product of an active ingredient of a pesticide for
15 which there is a groundwater protection data gap.

16 (2) The Groundwater Protection List established pursuant to
17 subdivision (d) of Section 13145.

18 (3) For each pesticide listed pursuant to paragraph (2) for which
19 information is available, a list of the amount sold in California
20 during the most recent year for which sales information is available
21 and where and for what purpose the pesticide was used, when this
22 information is available in the pesticide use report.

23 (c) The department shall determine, to the extent possible, the
24 toxicological significance of the pesticides listed in the
25 Groundwater Protection List.

26 SEC. 3. Section 13145 of the Food and Agricultural Code is
27 amended to read:

28 13145. (a) Any registrant of a pesticide identified in paragraph
29 (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 13144 is subject to a fine of up
30 to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for each day the groundwater
31 protection data gap exists. In determining the amount of the fine,
32 the director shall consider both of the following:

33 (1) The extent to which the registrant has made every effort to
34 submit valid, complete, and adequate information within the
35 required time limits.

36 (2) Circumstances beyond the control of the registrant that have
37 prevented the registrant from submitting valid, complete, and
38 adequate information within the required time limits.

39 (b) If there is a dispute between the director and a registrant
40 regarding the existence of a groundwater protection data gap and

1 the director desires to levy a fine on the registrant pursuant to this
2 section, the director shall submit the issues of the dispute to the
3 subcommittee created pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 13150.
4 The subcommittee shall review the evidence submitted by the
5 registrant and the director and make recommendations to the
6 director on whether or not the groundwater data gap exists.

7 (c) Subdivisions (a) and (b) shall not apply to pesticide products
8 whose registration has lapsed or has been canceled, or to products
9 that have been granted a current extension pursuant to Section
10 13143.

11 (d) The director shall, by regulation, establish the Groundwater
12 Protection List, which shall include each active ingredient, other
13 specified ingredient, or degradation product of a pesticide that,
14 when applied, has the potential to pollute groundwater.

15 (e) The director, in consultation with the subcommittee created
16 pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 13150, shall develop a peer
17 reviewed method to determine the potential of a pesticide to pollute
18 groundwater using specific numerical values established pursuant
19 to subdivision (a) of Section 13144. The director may revise this
20 method, subject to peer review. The peer review shall be conducted
21 using the same process as described in Section 57004 of the Health
22 and Safety Code. When a chemical is listed by regulation using
23 this method, no further peer review of the method is required.

24 (f) Each active ingredient, other specified ingredient, or
25 degradation product of a pesticide on the Groundwater Protection
26 List that is detected *pursuant to Sections 13148 and 13149* and
27 determined to be a result of lawful agricultural use shall be
28 regulated to prevent groundwater pollution in accordance with this
29 article.

30 (g) Any person who uses a pesticide that has been placed on
31 the Groundwater Protection List and does not file a report pursuant
32 to Section 12979, is required to report to the county agricultural
33 commissioner the use of the pesticide on a form prescribed by the
34 director. The reporting deadline shall conform to the deadline
35 established for the reporting of the use of restricted materials.

36 SEC. 4. Section 13148 of the Food and Agricultural Code is
37 amended to read:

38 13148. (a) In order to more accurately determine the mobility
39 and persistence of the pesticides identified in the Groundwater
40 Protection List, and to determine if these pesticides have migrated

1 to groundwaters of the state, the director shall conduct soil and
2 groundwater monitoring statewide in areas of the state where the
3 pesticide is primarily used or where other factors identified
4 pursuant to Section 13143 and the Groundwater Protection List,
5 including physicochemical characteristics and use practices of the
6 pesticides, indicate a probability that the pesticide may migrate to
7 the groundwaters of the state. The department shall monitor for
8 the active ingredient, other specified ingredient, or degradation
9 product of the pesticide listed in the Groundwater Protection List.
10 The monitoring shall commence within one year after the pesticide
11 is placed on the Groundwater Protection List and shall be
12 conducted in accordance with standard protocol and testing
13 procedures established pursuant to subdivision (b). Monitoring
14 programs shall replicate conditions under which the pesticide is
15 normally used in the area of monitoring. In developing a
16 monitoring program, the director shall coordinate with other
17 agencies that conduct soil and groundwater monitoring.

18 (b) Within 90 days after a pesticide is placed on the Groundwater
19 Protection List pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 13145, the
20 director, in consultation with the board, shall develop a standard
21 protocol and testing procedure for each pesticide identified pursuant
22 to subdivision (d) of Section 13145.

23 (c) The director shall report all monitoring results to the State
24 Department of Public Health and the board.

25 SEC. 5. Section 13149 of the Food and Agricultural Code is
26 amended to read:

27 13149. (a) Within 90 days after the active ingredient, other
28 specified ingredient, or degradation product of a pesticide is
29 detected under any of the conditions listed in paragraph (1) or (2),
30 the director shall determine whether the detection resulted from
31 agricultural use in accordance with state and federal laws and
32 regulations, and shall state in writing the reasons for the
33 determination.

34 (1) An active ingredient, other specified ingredient, or
35 degradation product of a pesticide has been found at or below the
36 deepest of the following depths:

37 (A) Eight feet below the soil surface.

38 (B) Below the root zone of the crop where the active ingredient,
39 other specified ingredient, or degradation product was found.

40 (C) Below the soil microbial zone.

1 (2) An active ingredient, other specified ingredient, or
2 degradation product of a pesticide has been found in the
3 groundwaters of the state.

4 (b) Upon a determination by the director that a pesticide meets
5 any of the conditions specified in paragraph (1) or (2) of
6 subdivision (a) as a result of agricultural use in accordance with
7 state and federal laws and regulations, the director shall
8 immediately notify the registrant of the determination and of the
9 registrant's opportunity to request a hearing pursuant to subdivision
10 (c).

11 (c) Any pesticide that meets any of the conditions in subdivision
12 (b) shall be subject to Section 13150 if the registrant of the
13 pesticide requests, within 30 days after the notice is issued, that
14 the subcommittee conduct a hearing, as described in Section 13150.
15 Notwithstanding any other law, if the registrant does not request
16 the hearing within 30 days after the notice is issued, the director
17 shall cancel the registration of the pesticide.

18 (d) For purposes of this section, any finding of a pesticide shall
19 result from either an analytical method approved by the department
20 that provides unequivocal identification of a chemical, such as
21 mass spectroscopy, or from verification, within 30 days, by a
22 second analytical method or a second analytical laboratory
23 approved by the department.

24 SEC. 6. Section 13152 of the Food and Agricultural Code is
25 amended to read:

26 13152. (a) (1) The department shall conduct ongoing soil and
27 groundwater monitoring of any pesticide whose continued use is
28 permitted following the issuance of findings by the director
29 pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 13150. The department shall
30 continuously review new science and data that could impact the
31 validity of a finding that a pesticide reviewed pursuant to Section
32 13150 has not polluted and does not threaten to pollute the
33 groundwater of the state.

34 (2) If the department determines that there is new science or
35 data that could impact the validity of a finding described in
36 paragraph (1), the director shall either mitigate the threat presented
37 by the pollution or subject the pesticide again to the Section 13150
38 review process.

39 (b) Any pesticide monitored pursuant to this section that is
40 determined, by review of monitoring data and any other relevant

1 data, to pollute the groundwaters of the state two years after the
2 director takes action pursuant to *paragraph (2), (3), or (4) of*
3 subdivision (d) of Section 13150 shall be canceled unless the
4 director has determined that the adverse health effects of the
5 pesticide are not carcinogenic, mutagenic, teratogenic, or
6 neurotoxic.

7 (c) The department shall maintain a statewide database of wells
8 sampled for pesticide active ingredients. All agencies shall submit
9 to the department, in a timely manner, the results of any well
10 sampling for pesticide active ingredients and the results of any
11 well sampling that detect any pesticide active ingredients.

12 (d) Not later than June 30, 1986, the director, the State
13 Department of Public Health, and the board shall jointly establish
14 minimum requirements for well sampling that will ensure precise
15 and accurate results. The requirements shall be distributed to all
16 agencies that conduct well sampling. All well sampling conducted
17 after December 1, 1986, shall meet the minimum requirements
18 established pursuant to this subdivision.

19 (e) The department shall post the following information on its
20 Internet Web site, updated no later than December 1 of each year:

21 (1) The number of wells sampled for pesticide active ingredients,
22 the location of the wells from which the samples were taken, the
23 well numbers, if available, and the agencies responsible for drawing
24 and analyzing the samples.

25 (2) The number of well samples with detectable levels of
26 pesticide active ingredients, the location of the wells from which
27 the samples were taken, the well numbers, if available, and the
28 agencies responsible for drawing and analyzing the samples.

29 (3) An analysis of the results of well sampling described in
30 paragraphs (1) and (2), to determine the probable source of the
31 residues. The analysis shall consider factors such as the physical
32 and chemical characteristics of the pesticide, volume of use and
33 method of application of the pesticide, irrigation practices related
34 to use of the pesticide, and types of soil in areas where the pesticide
35 is applied.

36 (4) Actions taken by the director and the board to prevent
37 pesticides from migrating to groundwaters of the state.

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