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**Act No. 35 (H.205). Agriculture; pesticides; pollinator protection; neonicotinoid pesticides**

**An act relating to the regulation of neonicotinoid pesticides**

This act requires the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets (Secretary) to register neonicotinoid pesticides approved for outdoor use as restricted use pesticides. Restricted use pesticides shall be sold by only a licensed dealer and shall only be applied by State certified applicators. Pet care products, personal care products, indoor pest control products, and treated article seeds are exempt from the requirement that the Secretary register neonicotinoid pesticides as restricted use pesticides.

The act increases the annual registration fee for pesticides from \$175.00 to \$200.00. The increased \$25.00 in fees shall be used to offset additional inspection costs of pesticide products and to provide technical assistance and educational services to pesticide applicators, beekeepers, and the general public. The fees also shall be used to establish two new positions at the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to assist in pesticide enforcement and pollinator protection.

The act clarifies the requirements for owners of bees, apiaries, colonies, or hives in the State to register with the Secretary in writing. Beekeepers shall be required to submit a varroa mite and pest mitigation plan to the Secretary as part of an annual report. The act authorizes the Secretary to adopt rules related to the importation of bees, equipment, or bee products and registration and reporting requirements of persons owning bees, apiaries, colonies, or hives.

The act provides that bees, used equipment, or colonies shall not be imported into the State unless permitted by the Secretary. The Secretary shall not issue a permit unless the bees, used equipment, or colonies are accompanied by a valid certificate of inspection from the state of origin issued within the previous 60 days. Bees, used equipment, and colonies that are registered in Vermont, were transported no more than 75 miles from the registered location, and are imported back into the State within 90 days of original transport shall be exempt from the import permit requirement.

Effective Date: July 1, 2019