

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 759 Session of  
2018

---

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, YOUNGBLOOD, DONATUCCI, KINSEY, MURT,  
DRISCOLL, NEILSON, THOMAS, DEAN, CALTAGIRONE, D. COSTA AND  
BRADFORD, MARCH 15, 2018

---

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, MARCH 15, 2018

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a  
2 study on pesticide exposure and poisoning, testing and  
3 reporting and to issue a report.

4 WHEREAS, The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide  
5 Act is the Federal statute governing the registration,  
6 distribution, sale and use of pesticides throughout the United  
7 States; and

8 WHEREAS, A pesticide is defined in the Pennsylvania Pesticide  
9 Control Act of 1973 as "any substance or mixture of substances  
10 intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating  
11 any pest, and any substance or mixture of substances intended  
12 for use as a plant regulator, defoliant, or desiccant"; and

13 WHEREAS, Pesticides are widely used to control pests such as  
14 insects, rodents, weeds, mold, fungi and bacteria; and

15 WHEREAS, Although utilized in and around buildings, homes,  
16 forests, parks and schools, pesticides are also consistently  
17 applied to crops by the agricultural industry; and

18 WHEREAS, Eighty percent of the 16,000 pesticide products that

1 are registered with the United States Environmental Protection  
2 Agency are used by the agricultural industry; and

3 WHEREAS, Agriculture has a long ingrained history within this  
4 Commonwealth and continues to be one of the top economic  
5 industries; and

6 WHEREAS, Given the greater use of pesticides in cultivating  
7 crops, the groups employed in the agricultural industry are most  
8 exposed and at elevated risk of illness or injury; and

9 WHEREAS, Recognizing worker risk, the Federal Insecticide,  
10 Fungicide and Rodenticide Act includes a specific section  
11 addressing worker protection standards; and

12 WHEREAS, The worker protection standards were revised by the  
13 Environmental Protection Agency in November 2015 for the first  
14 time since 1992; and

15 WHEREAS, Most provisions of the revised worker protection  
16 standards were implemented in January 2017; and

17 WHEREAS, The remaining sections slated to be implemented have  
18 been delayed by the Environmental Protection Agency until May  
19 2018; and

20 WHEREAS, Every organ system in the body is susceptible to  
21 pesticide toxicity, with recent studies showing that not only  
22 workers, but pregnant women and their developing babies and  
23 children are particularly vulnerable; and

24 WHEREAS, The National Institute for Occupational Safety and  
25 Health's Strategic Surveillance Plan recommends that every state  
26 conduct surveillance for acute pesticide-related illness and  
27 injury to identify pesticide problems, estimate the magnitude of  
28 pesticide poisoning and evaluate intervention and prevention  
29 efforts; and

30 WHEREAS, Thirty states, including Ohio, Maryland, New Jersey

1 and New York, require health professionals to report suspected  
2 pesticide poisoning; and

3 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is one of 23 states and jurisdictions  
4 that do not require reporting of suspected pesticide poisoning  
5 by health professionals; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint  
7 State Government Commission to conduct a study on pesticide  
8 exposure and poisoning, testing and reporting and to issue a  
9 report to the General Assembly; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission seek  
11 input and information, as appropriate, from the following:

- 12 (1) The Department of Health.
- 13 (2) The Department of Labor and Industry.
- 14 (3) The Department of Agriculture.
- 15 (4) The Department of Environmental Protection.
- 16 (5) The Insurance Department.
- 17 (6) Federal agencies that oversee regulation of  
18 pesticides.
- 19 (7) Individuals specializing in toxicology,  
20 epidemiology, medicine, data management, occupational and  
21 environmental health and industrial hygiene.
- 22 (8) Other agencies, organizations or persons that the  
23 commission deems appropriate;

24 and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the report of the Joint State Government  
26 Commission contain findings and recommendations and include any  
27 proposed legislation regarding the following:

- 28 (1) The threat pesticide exposure poses to public  
29 health.
- 30 (2) A cost-benefit analysis for employers providing

1 adequate information, safety gear and training and in taking  
2 all necessary precautions to prevent pesticide exposure and  
3 pesticide-related illness and injury.

4 (3) The feasibility of this Commonwealth developing and  
5 implementing a Statewide pesticide-related illness and injury  
6 related surveillance program.

7 (4) Identification of available money, including Federal  
8 and State money, to develop and implement a Statewide  
9 pesticide-related illness and injury related surveillance  
10 program, if feasible;

11 and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a  
13 report of its findings and recommendations to the General  
14 Assembly within 18 months of the adoption of this resolution.