



COLORADO
WATER CONGRESS
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HB20-1180

SHORT TITLE: Protect Pollinators Through Pesticide Regulation

LONG TITLE: Concerning the protection of pollinators by restricting the use of certain pesticides.

SPONSORS: Reps. Kipp and Jacquez-Lewis/Sens. Fields and Priola

COMMITTEES: House Energy & Environment Committee

PURPOSE OF THE BILL: To protect bee populations and other pollinators, which have been declining.

Proponents:

POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDERS: Agriculture, conservation community, pesticide manufacturers and applicators.

BACKGROUND: For several years there has been growing concern about declining populations of pollinators such as bees and butterflies necessary for maintenance of plant life. Restrictions on certain classes of pesticides is proposed as a measure to slow or halt the decline.

How does the bill change current law? Pesticide application is currently regulated through licensure of applicators to protect water quality. The bill directs the Commissioner of Agriculture to develop rules to regulate the use of certain classes of pesticides including neonicotinoid pesticides and sulfoximine pesticides by classifying specific neonicotinoid pesticides and sulfoximine pesticides as restricted-use pesticides.

How is the bill implemented? The bill requires the commissioner of agriculture, on or before March 1, 2021, to adopt rules to regulate the use of neonicotinoid pesticides and sulfoximine pesticides by classifying specific neonicotinoid pesticides and sulfoximine pesticides as restricted-use pesticides. The commissioner's rules must exempt from the restricted use of the pesticides their use as indoor pest control, personal care, and pet care products. These exempt uses may also be restricted if the Commission finds there are other commercial products available that do not contain the restricted substances. The bill states that licensure will not be required, and the rules will not apply to not apply to commercial applicators, limited commercial applicators, public applicators, qualified supervisors, certified operators, and private applicators.

Does the bill affect prior appropriation? No.

Practical considerations:

Fiscal impact: No fiscal note is available.