

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

Action: Without Recommendation as to Passage, Be Printed Engrossed, and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

Vote: 3 - 2 - 0

Yeas: Bates, Prozanski, Avakian

Nays: Atkinson, Beyer

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Sue Marshall, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 4/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Reduces size of identifying hydrologic unit to be used when reporting pesticide use from the third level to the fourth level. Requires government bodies to report their pesticide use by address or section map. Applies to reporting data on or after the effective date of the act.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Legislative history of the pesticide use reporting law
- Smaller geographic reporting areas and identification of potential health risks
- Timeline to review pesticide use reporting program
- Level of data needed by drinking water providers and public agencies

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Requires government bodies or those acting on behalf of government bodies to report the use of pesticides by address or by township, range, section and quarter section of the application location. Corrects minor drafting errors.

BACKGROUND: The United States Geological Survey (USGS) organizes watersheds and drainage basins of the United States into a hydrologic system that divides and subdivides the United States into successively smaller watersheds numbered one to four with four being the smallest unit. The state of Oregon is divided into roughly fifteen, third-level hydrologic accounting units. A third-level hydrologic unit code is approximately between 5,000 and 15,000 square miles in size, while a fourth-level is between 130 to 4,000 square miles.

Pesticide use reporting was enacted by the 1999 Legislative Assembly. Currently the Department of Agriculture requires pesticide use reporting to include identification of the general location where the pesticide is used. Urban areas are required to report the location of pesticide use by the five-digit zip code. Non-urban areas are required to report the location of pesticide use based on the third-level hydrologic unit. Proponents of the measure are concerned that the geographic reporting area is too broad and does not provide public health and drinking water agencies with enough information.

The measure reduces the geographic area for reporting pesticide use in rural areas and for government bodies.