



A.1334-A (WRIGHT, ET AL.)

Summary

This bill would amend New York State's Environmental Conservation Law to create an urban pesticide board to examine and make recommendations regarding pesticide use patterns in urban areas, as well as to require that all certified pesticide applicators demonstrate knowledge of safer pest management techniques that do not rely on the use of toxic pesticides.

Explanation

Several years of pesticide reporting data are available under the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's pesticide reporting program. According to this data, New York's urban counties use the most pesticides. This contradicts national trends. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), approximately 77 percent of the total pesticides used are for agricultural purposes.

According to the EPA the health effects of pesticide use are determined by the pesticide in use. Generally speaking, research has shown that pesticides can affect human nervous systems and hormone system functioning. Pesticides also affect endocrine system functioning in humans and wildlife. Some contain carcinogens and others cause eye and skin irritations.

Alternatives to traditional pesticide use are often more successful, because such methods do not treat the symptoms of infestation but the root causes. By formally examining pesticide use in urban areas and providing a forum for experts to recommend safer alternatives, this bill would set in motion a process whereby the pesticide use in urban areas is reduced while better pest management is achieved.

And by requiring pesticide applicators to demonstrate proficiency in non-toxic methods of pest management, this measure ensures that pest control operators are capable of performing this kind of alternative work. It also ensures a supply of knowledgeable personnel to meet the needs of a growing number of New Yorkers in demand of safer pest control services.

Environmental Advocates of New York supports this bill.

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