
ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6518

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2020 Regular Session

State of Washington **66th Legislature** **2020 Regular Session**

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Rolfes, Van De Wege, and Wilson, C.)

READ FIRST TIME 02/11/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to reducing prenatal exposure and harm to
2 children by limiting environmental exposure to certain pesticides;
3 adding a new section to chapter 17.21 RCW; and creating new sections.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that scientific
6 research has played an important role in informing and advancing
7 public policy in many areas, including health, education, early
8 childhood development, and environmental and wildlife protection.

9 (1) The legislature also finds that organophosphate pesticides,
10 such as chlorpyrifos, above certain levels may harm aquatic habitats
11 and aquatic organisms, including salmon.

12 (2) In addition, the legislature finds that scientific research
13 has identified early childhood as a critical period of intervention
14 during which children develop the foundation for educational
15 achievement. Young children are especially vulnerable to
16 environmental contaminants and toxic stress.

17 (3) Chlorpyrifos and other organophosphate pesticides affect the
18 nervous system through inhibition of cholinesterase, an enzyme
19 required for proper nerve functioning.

20 (4) Children experience greater exposure to chlorpyrifos
21 pesticides because, relative to adults, they eat, drink, and breathe

1 more in proportion to their body weight. Because of this concern, the
2 federal food quality protection act requires a tenfold margin of
3 safety in the registration of pesticides to protect infants and
4 children.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 17.21
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 The director must adopt emergency rules that take effect by
8 January 1, 2022, that include specific control measures for
9 chlorpyrifos that are designed to reduce emissions sufficiently so
10 the public is not subject to levels of exposure that may cause or
11 contribute to significant adverse health effects.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) Subject to the availability of amounts
13 appropriated for this specific purpose, Washington State University
14 shall provide the Washington state commission on pesticide
15 registration with funding to work with agricultural grower groups
16 presently using chlorpyrifos to research alternative pest control
17 strategies.

18 (2) Additional funding must be provided to the department of
19 agriculture for training and enforcement of the Washington pesticide
20 application act.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If specific funding for the purposes of
22 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
23 provided by June 30, 2020, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
24 act is null and void.

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