

**House Bill HD2336**  
**An Act to Protect Massachusetts Pollinators**  
**Lead Sponsor: Representative Carolyn Dykema**

**The Issue:**

Neonicotinoid pesticides act on the nervous system of invertebrates and when improperly used, can result in lethal impacts to bees and other pollinators. Sub-lethal doses of neonicotinoids have also been cited as a possible contributing factor to Colony Collapse Disorder which has caused the death of millions of bees globally since 2006.

**What An Act to Protect Massachusetts Pollinators Does:**

Limits the use of neonicotinoid pesticides to those properly trained to use them. Prohibits use for cosmetic purposes during the blooming when pollinators are most likely to be impacted. Specifically, the bill:

- Limits the sale of products containing neonicotinoid pesticides to certified commercial applicators, certified private applicators, or licensed applicators.
- Requires licensed applicators to receive training on proper use.
- Prohibits cosmetic use during the blooming season and defines blooming season.
- Requires notification of property owners before neonicotinoids can be applied and requires an alternative to be offered.
- Requires labeling of blooming and flowering plants with information about toxicity to bees.
- Requires existing Pesticide Board subcommittee to keep up-to-date on research relative to neonicotinoids.
- Provisions take effect Jan. 1 2016

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FAQs

**Have other states or countries addressed neonicotinoids through legislation?** In 2013, the European Union put a 2-year moratorium on the use of neonicotinoids. In June 2014 the President authorized creation of a pollinator health task force, and EPA now requires bee advisory boxes on products treated with these pesticides. In 2014, bills related to neonicotinoids were introduced in nine states; outright bans were considered in Maine, New York, New Jersey and Vermont, and restrictions were considered in Maryland and Alaska.

**Will this bill harm farming operations?** No, the bill will allow farmers, who are properly trained and licensed to use them, to use them as they currently do.

**Have scientists proven that neonicotinoids are killing bees?** Most everyone can agree that these pesticides are lethal to bees when improperly used. That's why this bill requires that applicators are properly trained to use them in a way that minimizes pollinator impacts.

Some believe that future research may indicate a more direct connection between long-term, low-level impacts on bees that would justify further restrictions. This bill contains a requirement that the pesticide review board continue to monitor research related to neonicotinoid impacts on pollinators so that additional action can be taken if supported by the science.

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For more information about this legislation,  
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