

TURFGRASS ADVOCACY 2014

NEW YORK STATE TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION · MARCH 12, 2014



PESTICIDE REPORTING LAW

BACKGROUND

The New York State Turfgrass Association, with more than 1,600 members consisting of lawn care professionals, golf course superintendents, sports field managers and landscapers across the state, SUPPORTS the enactment of the Governor's budget, **S6357/A8857**, Part H, which streamlines pesticide reporting requirements.

In 1996 the Legislature mandated that certified pesticide applicators annually report their pesticide sales and use for the purpose of developing a database that could be accessed by researchers. However, since its creation nearly 20 years ago, very few researchers have attempted to access the data. Yet New York has spent millions of dollars creating and maintaining a database that has been accessed and used only a handful of times. Researchers have acknowledged that the information is not usable and DEC Commissioner Joe Martens testified at a January 26, 2014 budget hearing that changes need to be made to the process in order for the data to be useful. Meanwhile, pesticide applicators have spent countless hours at a great cost recording and reporting each and every application that they make over the course of the year. In addition, the State has spent millions of dollars over the past 18 years attempting to manage the data and have it accessible to interested researchers. The last available report is for 2005 and that was released in 2007.

NYSTA PERSPECTIVE

We welcome the Governor's recommendation to lift the pesticide reporting burden from the certified pesticide applicator community. This budget proposal is an appropriate cost reduction action given that the data has not been compiled nor requested by researchers as was originally intended. In addition, this proposed legislation is a positive step towards enhancing the business environment in our state. Professional certified pesticide applicators are small businesses burdened with significant government regulation. Mandating time and expense to report information that is not used nor desired is bad government policy.

RECOMMENDATION

We applaud the Governor's proposal and strongly encourage the legislature to enact the provisions included in Part H of the Executive Budget's Article VII provisions **S6357/A8857**.