May 21, 2008

H 2460. PREVENT AGRI. PESTICIDE EXPOSURE/FUNDS. Filed 5/21/08. *AMENDING THE LABOR LAWS OF NORTH CAROLINA TO ADD AGRICULTURAL WORKERS TO THOSE PROTECTED AGAINST RETALIATION IN THE WORKPLACE; DIRECTING THE PESTICIDE BOARD TO ADOPT RULES REQUIRING LICENSED PESTICIDE APPLICATORS TO RECORD THE SPECIFIC TIME OF DAY WHEN EACH PESTICIDE APPLICATION IS COMPLETED; EXTENDING THE RETENTION PERIOD FOR RECORDS RELATED TO GENERAL-USE PESTICIDES FROM THIRTY DAYS TO TWO YEARS; AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO PREVENT AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDE EXPOSURE, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON PREVENTING AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDE EXPOSURE.*

Makes the following appropriations for 2008-09 from the General Fund: (1) $100,000 to NC State University, Cooperative Extension for pesticide safety education, (2) $197,152 to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Office of Rural Health, for five trainers in pesticide safety, (3) $91,340 to the DHHS Division of Public Health for an epidemiologist to assist with pesticide exposure screening, (4) $142,962 to the DHHS Division of Public Health for the Acute Pesticide Illness & Injury Screening Program and the Worker Protection Standards training curriculum, (5) $54,256 to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for a quality assurance manager position for monitoring and compliance inspections, and (6) $100,000 to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to accelerate the development of a comprehensive data tracking system for field inspectors.

Amends GS 95-241(a) to extend the protections of the Retaliatory Employment Discrimination Act to employees presenting claims related to pesticide use under Article 52 of GS Chapter 143.

Effective July 1, 2008.

Intro. by Blue, Martin, England. GS 95, APPROP