



ASSEMBLY MEMBER

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## **AB 363 – Evaluating Non-Agricultural Neonicotinoids**

### **Summary**

AB 363 helps protect bees and other pollinators, clean water, people, and the future of our food supply by requiring the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) to complete an evaluation of the use of neonicotinoid (neonic) pesticides on turf and ornamental plants in non-agricultural settings.

### **Background**

California beekeepers lost 41.9% of their colonies last year, one of the worst years on record. These losses threaten California's ecosystems and more than \$15 billion in state agricultural production that depends on bees and other pollinators. An overwhelming body of research links pollinator declines to the use of pesticides, particularly neonicotinoids.

Neonicotinoids are the world's most widely used insecticides, and incredibly toxic to insects—just one square foot of grass treated with a neonic lawn product can contain enough neonics to kill one million bees. Most of the chemicals stay in the soil, where they can remain for years and are easily carried by rain or lawn watering into water supplies.

Most uses of neonics in non-agricultural settings are unnecessary, yet they are incredibly widespread. California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) monitoring detected imidacloprid—the most common neonic in non-agricultural settings—in 92% of water samples taken in urban areas of southern California and 58% of urban samples in northern California. Studies on humans and animals have connected

neonics to reproductive and developmental impacts. We could avoid these health risks by simply eliminating neonic use or switching to less harmful alternative treatments, however, companies continue to push these dangerous products despite their widespread harms.

### **Problem**

Neonicotinoid pesticides are routinely used despite their devastating effects on pollinator health and biodiversity and risks to human wellbeing.

### **What this bill does**

AB 363 requires the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) to complete an evaluation and finalize regulations for the use of neonicotinoid (neonic) pesticides on turf and ornamental plants in non-agricultural settings. It requires the department to include both human health and pollinator health impacts in its evaluation to get a complete picture of the risks these pose.

### **Support**

Environment California (Co-Sponsor)  
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) (Co-Sponsor)

### **Contact**

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