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## Pollinator Protection Act Becomes Law

**Annapolis, MD** (May 27, 2016) - Maryland is the first state to pass legislation through its General Assembly that restricts consumers from using neonicotinoids, a pollinator-threatening pesticide.

The Pollinator Protection Act ([Senate Bill 198](#)/[House Bill 211](#)) will become law without the Governor's signature. Under the Act, consumers will not be allowed to buy pesticides that contain neonicotinoids starting in 2018. Certified pesticide applicators, farmers and veterinarians will still be allowed to use neonicotinoids.

Numerous studies confirm that neonics contribute to bee mortality, as well as to declines in native pollinators, including birds and butterflies.

"This is a historic moment for our state that can be attributed to the hard work and dedication of many Maryland scientists, beekeepers, farmers, legislators as well as public health, food and environmental advocates," says Ruth Berlin, executive director of the Maryland Pesticide Education Network. "We are excited that this important legislation will become law. This Act is necessary for our future food supply. We hope this motivates other states -- and the federal government -- to reduce the use of toxic neonic pesticides."

View the [fact sheet](#) for more information.

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The [Smart on Pesticides Maryland](#) coalition, spearheaded by Maryland Pesticide Education Network, works to protect Marylanders and the natural systems we depend upon from the toxic impacts of pesticides. The coalition includes more than 75 organizations, and institutions representing communities, businesses, health care providers, farmers, environmentalists, Waterkeepers, interfaith congregants as well as environmental justice, public health and wildlife advocates.