

**The LEGISLATURE is at it AGAIN!!**

One of the many benefits you derive from your MTC membership is that the Board of Directors and MTC Officers work with all it's member associations and similar groups to watch for legislation at the National, State and Local levels. It is our job to make you aware when something is being prepared for legislation that effects you and to scream loud and clear when such legislation will be a detriment to **YOU and the ENTIRE TURFGRASS INDUSTRY.**

Well it is time for us to **SCREAM LOUD AND CLEAR NOW!!**

Senate Bill (SB0361) and House Bill (HB0211) "**Neonicotinoid Pesticided – Labeling, Sinage and Restrictions on Sales and Use (Pollinator Protector Act of 2016)**" has been introduced by Senator Nathan-Pulliam (from Baltimore City & Co. Dist. 44) and Delegate Healey (From P.G. Co. Dist. 22).

- This bill would require that a person *may not sell* any seed, plant material, nursery stock, annual plants, bedding plants, feed stock, vegetables, turfgrass sod, or other plant material that has been treated with a neonicotinoid pesticide in the state unless it bears a label with the following statement: "**Warning: This product has been treated with neonicotinoid pesticides, found to harm or impair non-target organisms, including bees and other pollinators, birds, earthworms and aquatic invertebrates.**"
- Then starting on or after January 1, 2017, a person *may not sell* a neonicotinoid pesticide in the state unless he or she also sells a restricted-use pesticide. In addition to the sale restrictions, this bill also requires that on or after January 1, 2017, a person may not use a neonicotinoid pesticide unless the person is: (1) a certified applicator; (2) a farmer who uses the pesticide for agricultural purposes, including crop production, livestock, poultry, and non-crop agricultural fields; or (3) a veterinarian. Flea and Tick collars for dogs and cats would also be exempt.
- This bill would put a negative label on Agricultural Products that use neonicotinoids in some form, some where during their production. This would include seeds, plants, nursery stock, sod and vegetables such as sweet corn.

Would you rather buy an ear of corn at your local farm stand with a big warning label about neonicotinoid sprayed on it or a nice dry ear from in the grocery store from Mexico with heaven only know what on it. The same will be true with nursery stock or sod you grow, buy or instal in MD. Growers in the surrounding states will be very happy to supply when your customers don't want anything with that label.

You say you **don't use** Neonicotinoid Pesticides (actually they are Insecticides). Good chance you do.

The Neonicotinoid family include:

Acetamiprid	sold as	Mospilan, Arsail, Chipco Tristar
Clothianidin	sold as	Poncho, Dantosu, Dantop

Imidacloprid	sold as	Confidor, Admire, Gaucho, Advocate, Merit
Nitenpyram	sold as	Capstar, Guardian
Thiacloprid	sold as	Calypso
Thiamethoxam	sold as	Actara, Platinum, Cruiser

### **Imidacloprid is the most widely used insecticide in the world**

Compared to Organophosphates and Carbamates, Insecticide Neonicotinoids cause less toxicity in birds and mammals than insects.

This bill was introduced in 2015 and was defeated but it is back again this year with more support. MDA has testified about the truth concerning this material and the MD Farm Bureau officially opposes it as does the MTC and the MTA but we need **you help right away.** **Call, E-mail and Fax your Senators and Deligates today and urge them to VOTE AGAINST SB0361 and HB0211 *unless you already have more business than you can handle or you are not paying high enough prices for things you buy including insecticides and vegetables you and your family eat.***

Vernon W. Cooper,  
Executive Director - MTC