**An Act Regarding the Application of Certain Pesticides for Nonagricultural Use**

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

**Sec.** **1. 7 MRSA §606, sub-§3** is enacted to read:

**3.** **Persistent synthetic pesticides.**  Except for pesticides that are used in the production of agricultural products, a person may not use persistent synthetic pesticides. For purposes of this subsection, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Agricultural products" has the same meaning as in section 152, subsection 2.

B. "Pesticide" means a substance used to control pests, including but not limited to harmful insects, disease and weeds.

C. "Synthetic," with respect to a substance, means that the substance is formulated or manufactured by a chemical process or by a process that chemically changes a substance extracted from naturally occurring plant, animal or mineral sources, except that "synthetic" does not apply to substances created by naturally occurring biological processes.

**Sec.** **2. Composition of the Board of Pesticides Control; working group.** The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall convene a working group to review the composition of the Board of Pesticides Control. The working group shall evaluate whether the composition of the board equitably represents public, environmental and industry interests and shall identify whether the service of any of the board members gives the appearance of a financial conflict of interest. The commissioner shall present findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry no later than December 1, 2021. The joint standing committee may submit a bill relating to the subject matter of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

**SUMMARY**

This bill prohibits the use of persistent synthetic pesticides except pesticides that are used in the production of agricultural products. The bill also directs the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convene a working group to review the composition of the Board of Pesticides Control with respect to whether the board equitably represents public, environmental and industry interests and to identify whether the service of any of the board members gives the appearance of a financial conflict of interest. The commissioner is required to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry with findings and recommendations.