

4/29/2025

Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry  
LD 1697 - An Act to Increase Penalties to Deter Violations of the Laws Regarding Improper  
Pesticide Use

Good Afternoon Chairpersons Senator Talbot-Ross, Representative Pluecker, and honorable  
members of the Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committee,

My name is Will Weaver, and I am writing today to offer testimony neither for nor against LD  
1697.

I appreciate the committee's work to maintain high standards for pesticide use and public safety.  
As someone who manages a company who carefully applies pesticides professionally and only  
as-needed, I know firsthand how important proper application is, both for protecting people and  
for maintaining the integrity of the structural pest management industry.

That said, the increase proposed in LD 1697, raising penalties from \$1,500 to \$25,000, feels  
extreme. A 1,500% increase would represent a serious financial threat to small, good-faith  
operators, even in cases where violations might be minor or technical in nature. I understand  
the Department of Agriculture plans to develop a tiered penalty schedule, and I hope that  
process will reflect practical realities for businesses that work hard to stay compliant.

I have no issue with stronger penalties aimed at individuals operating without a license or  
blatantly misusing pesticides for malicious purposes. However, for licensed applicators who are  
trained to follow product labels, which are legal documents themselves, I ask that the state  
maintain a sense of proportion and fairness.

Regarding the proposed reclassification of active ingredients, I would encourage the legislature  
to continue relying on the Maine Board of Pesticides Control for these decisions. They are  
experts trained to evaluate these materials scientifically and objectively.

In closing, I support efforts to ensure pesticide applications are done safely and correctly. But I  
ask that the state approach penalties thoughtfully and allow science to continue guiding  
pesticide regulation.

Thank you for your time and for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,

Will Weaver  
22 Nottingham Ave  
Portland, ME 04103  
Will@mdweaver.com