



Richard A. Bennett  
Senator, District 18

THE MAINE SENATE  
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

**Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry on  
LD 356, An Act to Require Notification of Certain Outdoor Pesticide  
Applications  
March 6, 2025**

Senator Talbot Ross, Representative Pluecker, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry: I am Senator Rick Bennett of Oxford, and I have the honor of serving 14 communities in Western Maine in the State Senate. I am here to present LD 356, "An Act to Require Notification of Certain Outdoor Pesticide Applications."

I submitted this bill after I was contacted by a grieving constituent whose dog had died after consuming a rodent that had been poisoned by a rodenticide, likely from one of those black boxes outside of homes or businesses that contain poisoned bait in them. The dog's veterinarian said that the animal had all the signs of this type of poisoning and the constituent's neighbor admitted that she was responsible for the animal's death. Like many of you, I love my animals and I want to prevent this sort of thing from happening again. I would be heartbroken if my dog, Belle, or my cat, Teddy, fell victim to such a fate.

When the first draft of the bill came out, it didn't fully capture what I was looking to address. When the second draft came out, the analyst and I acknowledged that the bill was likely too broad and that the language would need to be narrowed significantly. Pesticide control is far outside my area of expertise but I am committed to finding a way to prevent this sort of tragedy from happening again while not harming the ability of businesses including our critical agricultural sector.

Since the bill came out, I have heard from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and had discussions with dozens of pest control companies, golf course associations, and farming businesses. They have explained how devastating this proposal would be if it were to be enacted as originally printed.

As a consequence, I propose the attached draft amendment, which turns the bill into a resolve. It would direct the Board of Pesticide Control to review and amend the rules on the placing of pesticidal baits, particularly rodenticides, as well as the notification requirements for using such baits. The intent of the measure all along was to improve disclosure of use of these pesticides. These rodenticide applications are currently exempt from these notification requirements. This amendment will fix that. I think this will achieve the balance we are looking for to protect animals from poisons as well as businesses and people from the dangers of certain pests.

Thank you for your consideration today. I would be happy to answer any questions.

**Amendment to LD 356**  
**An Act to Require Notification of Certain Outdoor Pesticide Applications**  
*Proposed by Senator Bennett*  
March 4, 2025

Amend the bill by striking out the title and replacing with the following:

Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control to Amend Rules on Placement of Pesticidal and Rodenticidal Baits and Appropriate Notification of Abutters

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and replacing with the following:

**Sec. 1. Limit the use of certain pesticides for outdoor use. Resolved:** That the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides shall review and amend rules on the placement of pesticidal baits, including, but not limited to, rodenticidal baits, and shall review and amend portions of Chapter 28: Notification Provisions for Outdoor Pesticide Applications to require notification of property owners in the vicinity of pesticidal baits. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

**SUMMARY**

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill with a resolve. The resolve requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides to review and amend rules on the placement of pesticidal baits, including, but not limited to rodenticidal baits, and to review and amend portions of Chapter 28: Notification Provisions for Outdoor Pesticide Applications in order to require notification of property owners in the vicinity of pesticidal baits. The amendment also provides that rules adopted pursuant to this resolve are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-

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