

4866

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

February 8, 2011

Introduced by M. of A. KAVANAGH, GALEF, ROSENTHAL, P. RIVERA, SPANO --
Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. BOYLAND, MCENENY, WEISENBERG -- read
once and referred to the Committee on Agriculture

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, the environmental
conservation law and the public service law, in relation to the prohi-
bition of the use of herbicides on utility rights of way

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEM-
BLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Paragraphs c and d of subdivision 1 of section 148 of the
2 agriculture and markets law, as added by chapter 390 of the laws of
3 1985, are amended and a new paragraph e is added to read as follows:
4 c. economic threshold; [and]
5 d. chemical and biological control[.]; AND
6 E. UTILITY RIGHT OF WAY VEGETATION MANAGEMENT TO BE CONDUCTED IN A
7 MANNER TO ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING: (I) IDENTIFYING PEST HERBICIDES, DEFO-
8 LIANTS, DESICCANTS AND PLANT REGULATOR PRACTICES AND THE IMPACT OF THESE
9 PRACTICES UPON SOIL AND WATER POLLUTION AND HUMAN HEALTH; (II) DEVELOP-
10 ING PRACTICAL BIOLOGICAL AND MECHANICAL CONTROL MEASURES; AND (III)
11 PROVIDING THE UTILITY INDUSTRY WITH TRAINING, INFORMATION AND EDUCA-
12 TIONAL MATERIALS.
13 S 2. Paragraphs e and f of subdivision 2 of section 148 of the agri-
14 culture and markets law, as added by chapter 390 of the laws of 1985,
15 are amended and a new paragraph g is added to read as follows:
16 e. minimized levels of pesticides in feed, food and the environment;
17 [and]
18 f. minimized economic losses due to crop, animal and stored grain
19 pests[.]; AND
20 G. ASSISTANCE ON THE TRANSITION FROM A DEPENDENCY UPON HERBICIDES,
21 DEFOLIANTS, DESICCANTS, AND PLANT REGULATORS TO CONTROL VEGETATION THAT
22 GROWS IN UTILITY RIGHTS OF WAY TO MECHANICAL ALTERNATIVES, CROP MANAGE-
23 MENT, AND BIOLOGICAL CONTROLS.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

LBD07415-01-1

1 S 3. Section 33-1301 of the environmental conservation law is amended
2 by adding a new subdivision 12 to read as follows:

3 12. FOR ANY PERSON, AGENCY, CORPORATION OR CERTIFIED APPLICATOR TO
4 USE, APPLY, TREAT, DISPERSE OR DISPOSE OF ANY HERBICIDE, DEFOLIANT,
5 DESICCANT, OR PLANT REGULATOR UPON ANY UTILITY RIGHT OF WAY OF ANY TELE-
6 PHONE, TELEGRAPH, PIPELINE, GAS OR ELECTRIC CORPORATION USING GROUND
7 EQUIPMENT OR AIRCRAFT. THE PROHIBITION SHALL FOLLOW A SCHEDULE ESTAB-
8 LISHED IN SUBDIVISION ONE-A OF SECTION SIXTY-FIVE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE
9 LAW, EXCEPT FOR THE PURPOSE OF RESIDENTIAL APPLICATION AND PRIVATE OR
10 COMMERCIAL APPLICATIONS USED SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRODUCING AN
11 AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY.

12 S 4. Section 65 of the public service law is amended by adding a new
13 subdivision 1-a to read as follows:

14 1-A. THE USE OF ANY HERBICIDES, DEFOLIANTS, DESICCANTS AND PLANT REGU-
15 LATORS IS PROHIBITED UPON ANY UTILITY RIGHT OF WAY OF ANY TELEPHONE,
16 TELEGRAPH, PIPELINE, GAS OR ELECTRIC CORPORATION PURSUANT TO THE FOLLOW-
17 ING SCHEDULE: DISTRIBUTION LINES AFTER JANUARY FIRST, TWO THOUSAND
18 FIFTEEN; TRANSMISSION LINES AFTER JANUARY FIRST, TWO THOUSAND SEVENTEEN;
19 MAJOR UTILITY TRANSMISSION FACILITIES AFTER JANUARY FIRST, TWO THOUSAND
20 NINETEEN. ON AND AFTER THESE DATES THE AFFECTED UTILITY SHALL NO LONGER
21 BE ABLE TO INCLUDE OR HAVE THESE ACTIVITIES INCLUDED AS PART OF ANY JUST
22 OR REASONABLE CHARGE FOR SERVICE NOR RECOVER ANY SUCH COSTS.

23 S 5. Section 130 of the public service law is amended by adding a new
24 undesignated paragraph to read as follows:

25 NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF THIS SECTION TO THE CONTRARY, THE
26 COMMISSION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION SHALL NOT BE
27 PROHIBITED FROM BANNING THE USE OF HERBICIDES, DEFOLIANTS, DESICCANTS
28 AND PLANT REGULATORS CONSISTENT WITH SECTION 33-1301 OF THE ENVIRON-
29 MENTAL CONSERVATION LAW ACCORDING TO THE TIME SCHEDULE ESTABLISHED IN
30 SUBDIVISION ONE-A OF SECTION SIXTY-FIVE OF THIS CHAPTER.

31 S 6. This act shall take effect January 1, 2014.