

- SUBJECT:** Creating a fund and outlining a program for pesticide disposal
- COMMITTEE:** Agriculture and Livestock — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — Springer, Anderson, Beckley, Buckley, Burns, Fierro, Meza, Raymond, Zwiener
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Ender Reed, Harris County Commissioners Court; Cyrus Reed, Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club; Sarah Gouak, Lower Colorado River Authority; Kody Bessent, Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.; Donnie Dippel, Texas Ag Industries Association, Texas Vegetation Management Association; Peyton Schumann, Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association; Austin McCarty, Texas Chemical Council; David Gibson, Kenneth Hodges, Wesley Spurlock, and Dee Vaughan, Texas Corn Producers Association; Marissa Patton, Texas Farm Bureau; Patrick Wade, Texas Grain Sorghum Association; Ryan Skrobarczyk, Texas Nursery and Landscape Association; Robert Turner, Texas Poultry Federation; Alexis Tatum, Travis County Commissioners Court)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Jessica Escobar and Phil Wright, Texas Department of Agriculture)
- BACKGROUND:** Agriculture Code sec. 76.0444 requires the Texas Department of Agriculture to charge a fee for each pesticide to be registered. The fee must be submitted with an application for registration or renewal of registration.
- It has been noted that it is illegal to improperly dispose of pesticides, but there is no state program to facilitate proper pesticide disposal.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 191 would require the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), in

coordination with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, to organize pesticide waste and container collection activities statewide and facilitate the collection of canceled, unregistered, or otherwise unwanted pesticide products and containers.

TDA, TCEQ and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service could contract with contractors licensed in the disposal of hazardous waste or other contractors for services to implement these collection activities. TDA would not be permitted to increase the pesticide registration fee for the purpose of this program.

The bill would create a pesticide disposal fund outside of general revenue to pay for these pesticide collection activities. The fund would consist of money generated through pesticide registration and renewal fees and the interest earned on the investment of money in the fund. TDA would be required to annually deposit to the credit of the pesticide disposal fund an amount of money sufficient to cover administrative costs for pesticide waste collection activities, not to exceed \$400,000.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.

NOTES: According to the Legislative Budget Board, the bill would have a negative impact of about \$940,000 in general revenue related funds through fiscal 2020-21.