

**Report to the Joint Standing Committee on
Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
128th Maine State Legislature**

**Pursuant to 7 M.R.S. § 607(6), Grants Funded,
Adequacy of the Product Registration Fee**

**Submitted by the
Maine Board of Pesticides Control
February 15, 2017**

INTRODUCTION

7 M.R.S. § 607(6) requires the Maine Board of Pesticides Control (BPC) to monitor revenue and expenditures in the Pesticide Control Fund and to provide an annual report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry by February 15. The report must detail any grants provided by the BPC and include a recommendation about whether the pesticide product registration fee is adequate to fund the operation of the BPC and related programs, and to fund the annual grants outlined under 7 M.R.S. § 607(6).

SUMMARY OF GRANTS PROVIDED AND ADEQUACY OF THE FEE FOR ALL PURPOSES

During 2016, the BPC provided the following grants:

- The annual legislature transfer to the University of Maine Cooperative Extension of \$135,000 pursuant to Title 7 Section 607 (6)
- The annual grant to the University of Maine Cooperative Extension of \$65,000 for pesticide education
- A \$50,000 grant to the Maine CDC for mosquito borne disease surveillance pursuant to Title 7 Section 607 (6)
- An ongoing grant to the Maine Migrant Health Program for \$3,675 for providing pesticide safety training to migrant farm workers

CURRENT HEALTH OF THE PESTICIDES CONTROL FUND

During calendar year 2016, expenditures from the Pesticides Control Fund exceeded revenues by approximately \$700,000. The BPC has been conserving funds for a few years to fund an ambitious software development effort that will provide an online self-service application that will allow the public to apply for exams, licenses and product registrations, submit reports, track continuing education credits and otherwise manage company personnel that interact with the BPC. These expenditures together with costs for the final phases of the project will essentially exhaust the cash reserves to the recommended contingency buffer (10%). No further grants are advisable during 2017.

ADEQUACY OF THE PESTICIDE PRODUCT REGISTRATION FEE

Maine's pesticide product registration fee is slightly higher than the national average while the population and market potential are below the national average. The fee appears adequate to fund Department programs and the two grant areas outlined in Title 7 Section 607 (6). No change in the fee is recommended at this time.