



Legislation Summary: Ecologically Based Mosquito Management

An Act providing for the public health by establishing an ecologically based mosquito management program in the Commonwealth

Initial bill number: HB845/SB445

Sponsors: Rep. Kathleen LaNatra and Sen. Joanne Comerford

What the bill does, why LWVMA supports or opposes it, and the League position relative to this bill.

The LWVMA supports this bill.

This bill changes the basis of mosquito management to “ecologically based mosquito management” (EBMM), which means an ecologically sustainable approach to the management of mosquito populations combining cultural, physical, biological, and, when strictly necessary to protect public health, least-toxic chemical control strategies. This bill eliminates the existing Mosquito Control Board and replaces it with a management office under the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs and an Advisory board. It authorizes formation of mosquito management districts, providing for continuity of the existing mosquito control projects; articulates the qualifications and powers of a district's governing council; requires 72 hour prior notice to residents within a half-mile of the application of an adult-targeting pesticide; requires the board to maintain a "no spray list" that households may opt into; prohibits the use of PFAS in pesticides used under the chapter; requires the board submit an annual report to the legislature.

The LWVUS believes that natural resources should be managed as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems. Resources should be conserved and protected to assure their future availability. Pollution of these resources should be controlled in order to preserve the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of ecosystems and to protect public health. LWVUS, Impact On Issues, p. 13