

Report to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry—126th Maine State Legislature

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

Submitted by the Maine Board of Pesticides Control, February 15, 2014

In 2013, the Maine Legislature revised 7 M.R.S. § 607(6) by enacting Public Law 2013, Chapter 290. The new amendments require the Board to:

- increase the pesticide product registration fee from \$150 to \$160 per product per year;
- make an annual grant to the University of Maine Cooperative Extension of no less than \$135,000;
- provide grants for other programs within certain guidelines if funding is available; and
- annually submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry matters on grants funded and recommendations on the adequacy of the fee to fund the specified programs.

Since the amendments to 7 M.R.S.A. § 607 became effective on January 1, 2014, there have not been any grants issued pursuant to the statute. Funding appears adequate to provide the annual grant to the University of Maine Cooperative Extension by April 1, 2014. Whether any additional grants may be funded during the 2014 calendar year has yet to be determined.

At this time, the \$160 annual pesticide product fee appears adequate to fund both the Board and related Department programs, and the annual grant to the University for both 2014 and 2015. A more careful assessment of the adequacy of the fee for these purposes is advisable at this time in 2015.