

PESTICIDE APPLICATION SAFETY COMMITTEE CHARTER

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

In 2019, the Legislature passed SSB 5550 to establish the pesticide application safety committee. This was the result of the 2018 legislation, ESSSB 6529, which directed a workgroup to develop recommendations to improve pesticide application safety. The workgroup concluded that legislation was warranted to set up a new pesticide application safety panel with clear objectives. The purpose of this committee is to evaluate and recommend policy options to improve pesticide application safety in the state of Washington.

GOALS AND DELIVERABLES

On issues and topics of interest related to pesticide application safety, the committee is directed by the Legislature to:

1. Appoint members to an advisory workgroup. A letter of appointment for each advisory workgroup member must be signed by both co-chairs. The workgroup is established to collect information and make recommendations to the full committee on pesticide-related topics requiring unique expertise and perspectives;
2. Explore how the departments of Agriculture, Labor and Industries, and Health, and the Washington Poison Center collect and track data, including the feasibility and requirements of developing a shared database to better display multiagency data regarding pesticides;
3. Conduct a review of how agencies investigate pesticide exposure cases to aid in making policy recommendations that may result in a better display of multiagency data regarding pesticides;
4. Consider evaluating and recommending other policy options that would take action to improve pesticide application safety; and
5. Report to the appropriate committees of the legislature each year to document activities of the committee and include any recommendations deemed necessary.

ANNUAL REPORT

The committee must submit an initial progress report by January 2020. Following the initial report, an annual report is due on May 1, 2020 and every year thereafter through May 1, 2025. The Department of Health and Department of Agriculture will provide staff to author the report and submit to the Legislature. Any member of the committee may provide a minority report that may be included as an appendix.

At the direction of the committee, the advisory group will collect information and make recommendations to the committee. The advisory workgroup must submit a report on their activities and recommendations to the full committee by November 9 each year.

MEMBERSHIP

The committee is made up of eleven members, and co-chaired by the Department of Health and Department of Agriculture. Members to serve on the committee include:

- **Committee Co-Chair:** Lauren Jenks, Assistant Secretary, Environmental Public Health Division, Department of Health
- **Committee Co-Chair:** Ignacio Marquez, Regional Assistant to the Director - Eastern/Central WA, Department of Agriculture
- **Senator Rebecca Saldaña**, Senate Democrat Caucus, 37th Legislative District
- **Senator Judy Warnick**, Senate Republican Caucus, 13th Legislative District
- **Representative Tom Dent**, House Republican Caucus, 13th Legislative District
- **Representative Javier Valdez**, House Democrat Caucus, 46th Legislative District
- **David Gang:** Assistant Director, College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences, Washington State University
- **Gwen Hoheisel:** Pesticide Safety Education Coordinator, Washington State University Cooperative Extension
- **Eddie Kasner**, Research Scientist and Outreach Director, University of Washington, Pacific NW Agricultural Safety and Health Center
- **Anne Soiza**, Assistant Director, Department of Labor and Industries
- **Calvin Ohlson-Kiehn**, Assistant Division Manager for Forest Resources, Department of Natural Resources

MEMBER APPOINTMENT

TERMS

The term of the committee expires in July 1, 2025. All members shall serve on the committee through this term.

MEMBER REPLACEMENT AND SUBSTITUTES

An opening on the committee may occur due to a resignation. If there is an opening on the committee the co-chairs shall seek a replacement member to be appointed by the agency, legislative caucus or university prior to the next committee meeting. Alternate members may serve on the committee at the discretion of the primary member of the agency, legislative caucus or university.

When a committee member cannot attend a meeting, a substitute may attend for purposes of monitoring the discussion.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

MEMBER MEETINGS

The committee shall meet at least three times per year at a location and time determined by the co-chairs. Cost of meetings shall be considered. When determining location, meetings shall be held in the Olympia area if it would reduce costs to the state.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Citizens are invited to provide public comments to the committee as designated at the time noted on the meeting agenda. Committee meetings are open to the public, but are not meetings of the public. The purpose of the meetings is to conduct committee business and to provide the members an opportunity to discuss issues with each other and with those scheduled on the agenda. Time limits for public comment may be established to ensure equitable time for each speaker and to ensure scheduled committee business can be completed in a reasonable amount of time.

Advance notice of regular committee meetings will be posted on the Department of Health's website, and available upon request.

DECISION MAKING STRUCTURE

Committee members agree to strive towards consensus on issues that may require a decision. When there is disagreement, a vote will be conducted and simple majority will rule. Members can vote when participating remotely. When a substitute is attending a meeting on behalf of the primary member the substitute may not vote by proxy.

ADVISORY WORKGROUP MEETINGS

The co-chairs, in consultation with the full committee, will assign topics for the advisory workgroup on pesticide-related topics requiring unique expertise and perspectives.

The advisory workgroup will hold meetings only at the committee's direction, but may request to meet more often. Requests will be sent to the Co-Chairs and then brought to the Committee for consideration. To reduce costs, meetings should be conducted using methods that reduce costs to the state such as webinars or teleconferencing. One in-person meeting may be held each year. Workgroup members may be reimbursed for mileage expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.060.

The advisory workgroup may establish a charter to guide the process of decision making, research, and process for making recommendations to the committee.