

2026 -- S 2439

LC003437

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- PESTICIDE CONTROL

Introduced By: Senators Vargas, Lauria, Appollonio, Murray, Bell, Valverde, Britto, and Thompson

Date Introduced: February 06, 2026

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Sections 23-25-37 and 23-25-38 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-25 entitled "Pesticide Control" are hereby amended to read as follows:

**23-25-37. ~~Pesticide applications and notification of pesticide applications at schools~~**  
**Pesticide and rodenticide applications and notification of pesticide and rodenticide applications at schools.**

(a) The department of environmental management and the department of health shall develop regulations as follows: (1) to restrict the use of hazardous pesticides and rodenticides in schools, pre-schools and child care centers in Rhode Island, including a prohibition on the use of any pesticide or rodenticide containing the herbicide glyphosate; (2) for the promotion and implementation of integrated pest management (IPM) as defined in § 23-25.2-2; (3) to cover situations where an emergency application of pesticide or rodenticide must be conducted to eliminate an immediate threat to human health, and establish reporting requirements for these emergency applications. The regulations developed pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be adopted and implemented no later than January 1, 2027.

(b)(1) On and after July 1, 2001, no person other than a licensed or certified commercial applicator as defined in § 23-25-4, shall apply pesticide and on and after January 1, 2027, no person other than a licensed or certified commercial applicator as defined in § 23-25-4, shall apply rodenticide within any building or on the grounds of any school. This section shall not apply in the case of an emergency application of pesticide or rodenticide to eliminate an immediate threat to

1 human health, where it is impractical to obtain the services of any such applicator; provided the  
2 emergency application does not involve a restricted use or state limited use pesticide or rodenticide.  
3 For purposes of this section, “emergency” means a sudden need to mitigate or eliminate a pest  
4 which threatens the health or safety of a student or staff member. Provided, further, effective  
5 January 1, 2027, this section shall not apply to any regional vocational agriculture center.

6 (2) On or after July 1, 2027, no person shall apply a lawn care pesticide or rodenticide on  
7 the grounds of any public or private preschool or public or private school including, but not limited  
8 to, any day care, charter school or vocational school with students in grade twelve (12) or lower;  
9 provided, however, that:

10 (i) An application of a lawn care pesticide or rodenticide may be made at a public or private  
11 school, as provided in subsection (b)(2) of this section with students grade twelve (12) or lower, on  
12 the playing fields and playgrounds of such school pursuant to an integrated pest management plan,  
13 which plan:

14 (A) Shall be consistent with the model pest control management plan developed by the  
15 department of environmental management and the department of health; and

16 (B) May be developed by a local district or regional school board (hereinafter "school  
17 board") with approval from the department of environmental management and department of  
18 health;

19 (ii) An emergency application of a lawn care pesticide or rodenticide may be made to  
20 eliminate a threat to human health as defined in subsection (b)(1) of this section.

21 (c)(1)(i) On and after July 1, 2002, at the beginning of each school year, each local school  
22 ~~authority~~ and private school administration shall provide the staff of each school and the parents or  
23 guardians of each child enrolled in each school with a written statement of the ~~committee's~~ school  
24 board's policy on pesticide application on school property and a description of any pesticide  
25 applications made at the school during the previous school year.

26 (ii) On and after January 1, 2027, at the beginning of each school year, each local school  
27 and private school administrator shall provide the staff of each school and the parents or guardians  
28 of each child enrolled in each school with a written statement of the school board's policy on  
29 rodenticide application on school property and a description of any rodenticide applications made  
30 at the school during the previous school year.

31 (2) The statement and description shall be provided to the parents or guardians of any child  
32 who transfers to a school during the school year. The statement shall: (i) indicate that the staff,  
33 parents, or guardians may register for prior notice of pesticide or rodenticide applications at the  
34 school; and (ii) describe the emergency notification procedures provided for in this section. Notice

1 of any modification to the pesticide or rodenticide application policy shall be sent to any person  
2 who registers for notice under this section.

3 (3) Effective on and after July 1, 2027, local school administrators shall, at the beginning  
4 of each school year, make available as part of the requirements of this section, an integrated pest  
5 management plan to parents, teachers and school staff with a copy to the department of education.

6 (d)(1) On and after July 1, 2002, parents or guardians of children in any school and school  
7 staff may register for prior notice of pesticide application at their school. Each school shall maintain  
8 a registry of persons requesting the notice. Prior to providing for any application of pesticide within  
9 any building or on the grounds of any school, the local school ~~authority~~ administration shall provide  
10 for the distribution of notice to parents and guardians who have registered for prior notice under  
11 this section, such that the notice is received no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the  
12 application. Notice shall be given by any means practicable to school staff who have registered for  
13 the notice. Notice under this subsection shall include: ~~(1) the~~ (i) The common or trade name and  
14 the name of the active ingredient; ~~(2) the~~ (ii) The EPA registration number as listed on the pesticide  
15 label; ~~(3) the~~ (iii) The target pest; ~~(4) the~~ (iv) The exact location of the application on the school  
16 property; ~~(5) the~~ (v) The date of the application; ~~and (6) the~~ (vi) The name of the school  
17 administrator, or a designee, who may be contacted for further information; and (vii) The above  
18 information shall be sent to the department of education.

19 (2) On and after July 1, 2027, parents or guardians of children in any school and school  
20 staff may register for prior notice of rodenticide application at their school. Each school shall  
21 maintain a registry of persons requesting the notice. Prior to providing for any application of  
22 rodenticide within any building or on the grounds of any school, the local school administration  
23 shall provide for the distribution of notice to parents and guardians who have registered for prior  
24 notice under this section, such that the notice is received no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior  
25 to the application. Notice shall be given by any means practicable to school staff who have  
26 registered for the notice. Notice under this subsection shall include: (i) The common or trade name  
27 and the name of the active ingredient; (ii) The EPA registration number as listed on the rodenticide  
28 label; (iii) The target pest; (iv) The exact location of the application on the school property; (v) The  
29 date of the application; (vi) The name of the school administrator, or a designee, who may be  
30 contacted for further information; and (vii) The above information shall be sent to the department  
31 of education.

32 (e) On and after July 1, 2003, no application of pesticide and on and after January 1, 2027,  
33 no application of rodenticide may be made in any building or on the grounds of any school during  
34 regular school hours or during planned activities at any school. No child shall enter an area where

1 the application has been made until it is safe to do so according to the provisions on the pesticide  
2 [or rodenticide](#) label. This section shall not apply to the use of germicides, disinfectants, sanitizers,  
3 deodorizers, antimicrobial agents, insecticidal gels, non-volatile insect or rodent bait in a tamper  
4 resistant container, insect repellants or the application of a pesticide [or rodenticide](#) classified by the  
5 United States Environmental Protection Agency as an exempt material under 40 CFR 152.25.

6 (f) ~~On and after July 1, 2002, a~~ [The](#) local school ~~authority~~ [administration](#) may make an  
7 emergency application of pesticide [or rodenticide](#) without prior notice under this section in the  
8 event of an immediate threat to human health, provided the ~~board~~ [administration](#) provides for  
9 notice, by any means practicable, on or before the day that the application is to take place, to any  
10 person who has requested prior notice under this section.

11 (g) On and after July 1, 2002, notice of any pesticide application at a school, [and on or after](#)  
12 [January 1, 2027, notice of any rodenticide application at a school](#) shall be given, by any means  
13 practicable, to the parents or guardians of any child enrolled at the school and to the staff of the  
14 school not later than one week after the application. The notice shall include: (1) the common or  
15 trade name and the name of the active ingredient; (2) the EPA registration number as listed on the  
16 pesticide [or rodenticide](#) label; (3) the target pest; (4) the exact location of the application on the  
17 school property; (5) the date of the application; and (6) the name of the school administrator, or a  
18 designee, who may be contacted for further information. A copy of the record of each pesticide [or](#)  
19 [rodenticide](#) application at a school shall be maintained at the school for a period of five (5) years.

20 (h) Not later than ~~July 1, 2002~~ [September 1, 2026](#), the department of environmental  
21 management and the department of health shall jointly establish a task force which shall specifically  
22 address methods to promote public education and professional training about pesticides [and](#)  
23 [rodenticides](#), their potential health effects and IPM least toxic alternatives, and for evaluation and  
24 analysis of current pest control practices at school and child care facilities. [The task force shall](#)  
25 [complete a report on its findings no later than December 31, 2027 and shall submit a report to the](#)  
26 [governor, speaker of the house and president of the senate detailing those findings.](#)

27 [\(i\) Storage of pesticide and rodenticide containers prior to disposal. Effective July 1, 2027,](#)  
28 [all unused or unwanted pesticides or rodenticides being stored prior to disposal, whether in sealed](#)  
29 [or previously opened containers, and all pesticide or rodenticide containers that have not been or](#)  
30 [cannot be rinsed shall be:](#)

31 [\(1\) Kept in a secure enclosure; and](#)

32 [\(2\) Maintained so as to prevent:](#)

33 [\(i\) Deterioration of containers;](#)

34 [\(ii\) Unauthorized use;](#)

1           (iii) Mishandling;

2           (iv) Loss;

3           (v) Contamination of the environment; and

4           (vi) Risk to the public health.

5           (j) Commencing January 1, 2027, the department of education shall provide to each school  
6 district, school board of each school district, superintendent of each school district, and any day  
7 care center under the supervision of the department of education with an explanation and the  
8 requirements of the pesticide or rodenticide application and notification law.

9           (k) On or after January 1, 2027, every school that has pesticide or rodenticide applications  
10 shall submit to the department of education a pesticide or rodenticide application report that shall  
11 include the following:

12           (1) A description of the pesticide or rodenticide applied to the grounds and the dates and  
13 times of the application;

14           (2) The name and title of the person applying the pesticides or rodenticides and whether  
15 the person is in compliance with subsection (b) of this section requiring a licensed or certified  
16 applicator to apply the pesticides or rodenticides;

17           (3) Any emergency applications of pesticides or rodenticides during the previous year; and

18           (4) Copies of any notice to parents issued pursuant to this section regarding pesticide or  
19 rodenticide application.

20           ~~23-25-38. Pesticide applications and notification of pesticide applications at pre-~~  
21 ~~schools and child care centers~~ **Pesticide and rodenticide applications and notification of**  
22 **pesticide and rodenticide applications at pre-schools and child care centers.**

23           (a) On and after July 1, 2003, no application of pesticide and on and after January 1, 2027,  
24 no application of rodenticide may be made by any person other than a certified or licensed  
25 commercial applicator as defined in § 23-25-4 in any building or on the grounds of any pre-school,  
26 child day care center, group/family day care home or family day care home, during regular business  
27 hours. No child enrolled at such center or home may enter an area where pesticides or rodenticides  
28 have been applied until it is safe to do so according to the provisions on the pesticide or rodenticide  
29 label. For purposes of this section, emergency shall mean a sudden need to mitigate or eliminate a  
30 pest which threatens the health or safety of a student or staff member. This section shall not apply  
31 to the use of germicides, disinfectants, sanitizers, deodorizers, antimicrobial agents, insecticidal  
32 gels, non-volatile insect or rodent bait in a tamper resistant container, insect repellants, insecticidal  
33 disks, or the application of a pesticide or rodenticide classified by the United States Environmental  
34 Protection Agency as an exempt material under 40 CFR part 152.25.

1           (2) On and after July 1, 2027, no person shall apply a lawn care pesticide or rodenticide on  
2 the grounds of any pre-school or child day care center; provided, however, that;

3           (i) An application of a lawn care pesticide or rodenticide may be made at a pre-school or  
4 child day care center on the playing fields or playgrounds of such school pursuant to an integrated  
5 pest management plan, which plan shall be consistent with the model pest control management plan  
6 developed by the department of environmental management and the department of health; and

7           (ii) An emergency application of a lawn care pesticide or rodenticide may be made to  
8 eliminate a threat to human health as defined in § 23-25-37.

9           (b) On and after July 1, 2002, notice of any pesticide and on and after January 1, 2027,  
10 notice of any rodenticide application at any such center or home shall be given, by any means  
11 practicable, to the parents or guardians of any child enrolled at the center or home not later than  
12 twenty-four (24) hours before the application. The notice shall include: (1) the common or trade  
13 name and the name of the active ingredient; (2) the EPA registration number as listed on the  
14 pesticide or rodenticide label; (3) the target pest; (4) the exact location of the application on the  
15 property; (5) the date of the application; and (6) the name of the pre-school or child care center  
16 owner/operator or their designee.

17           (c) The department of health shall provide any public or private pre-school and child day  
18 care center with an explanation and the requirements of the pesticide or rodenticide application and  
19 notification law.

20           (d) On or after July 1, 2027, every pre-school and child day care center that has pesticide  
21 and rodenticide applications shall submit to the department of education a copy of the notices that  
22 were sent to parents and guardians.

23           SECTION 2. Chapter 16-21 of the General Laws entitled "Health and Safety of Pupils" is  
24 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

25           **16-21-43. PFAS in artificial athletic fields - Task force.**

26           Not later than July 1, 2027, the department of environmental management and the  
27 department of health shall jointly establish a task force which shall specifically investigate, identify  
28 and address the presence of and potential health risk associated with the presence of poly-  
29 fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in artificial fields at private and public schools in Rhode Island. The  
30 task force shall report its findings no later than January 1, 2029, to the governor, speaker of the  
31 house and president of the senate.

32           SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- PESTICIDE CONTROL

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- 1           This act would prohibit the application of lawn care pesticides or rodenticides on the  
2 grounds of any public or private pre-school or public or private school with students in grade twelve  
3 (12) or lower, except in an emergency situation or to be used on the playing fields and playgrounds  
4 of the school as well as pre-schools and child care centers pursuant to an integrated pest  
5 management plan as developed by the department of environmental management and the  
6 department of health and would create a task force to study health risks of PFAS in athletic fields  
7 to students who use them.
- 8           This act would also require a school department to provide a copy of the pesticide or  
9 rodenticide application notice sent to parents and guardians to the department of education.
- 10          This act would take effect upon passage.

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