

# House bill 314 & Senate bill 27

## **Pesticide Right to Know**

Pesticides cause cancer and other serious human health problems such as a disruption of hormone and immune systems, reduction of human reproductive ability and nervous system disorders. Pesticides are especially harmful to children by affecting their learning abilities and normal development. Yet, despite widespread use of pesticides in our state, Alaskans have no reliable information on what, when, where, or in what quantities pesticides are used. Citizens have the right to know and must have the right to know and access site-specific information in order to evaluate the health risks of pesticide use in our state.

- **Registration Fees-** (Sec. 2) The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) may charge a registration fee of \$80.00 for a pesticide product registered for use in the state. With nearly 5,700 pesticides registered, registration fees could bring the state upwards of \$456,000. Currently, there are no fees associated with registering pesticides. The registration costs to the state were reported by DEC to be \$ 47,000 in January 2002. Alaska is the ONLY state that does not collect pesticide registration fees.
- **Notice of commercial pesticide spraying-** (Sec. 5) Prior written notices are set to take place at least 48 hours in advance of actual spraying. Public notice to residents must include each pesticides name, the date and time that the pesticide will be sprayed and the contact information of the person doing the spraying.
- **Pesticide tracking system-** (Sec. 6) HB 314 & SB 27 mandates that DEC establish and implement a pesticide use tracking system. The idea behind the pesticide tracking system is to create an efficient and cost-effective system that will make known the location and extent to which pesticides are applied. Under the tracking system section of HB 314 & SB 27 the department has the authority to impose a civil penalty on any pesticide applicator who fails to comply with reporting requirements.
- **Availability of information to the public-** (Sec. 6) Any data within the pesticide use tracking system will be accessible to the general public through the Internet in order to adequately provide the public with understandable and useful information about the use of pesticides at local, regional and state levels.
- **Pesticide Advisory Board-** (Sec. 6) HB 317 & SB 27 creates a seven member Pesticide Advisory Board. The board will have diverse representation including experts in fisheries and wildlife, a public water supplier, pesticide applicator, a University of Alaska cooperative extension service agent, children's health advocate and a member of the community. The advisory board will advise the DEC on the development and implementation of pesticide use reporting, recommend methods for public education, research and develop mechanisms for collection of household use, and work with the public to improve the reporting tracking system.