

Public Law 96-539
96th Congress

An Act

Dec. 17, 1980
[H.R. 7018]

To extend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act until September 30, 1981, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Federal
Insecticide,
Fungicide, and
Rodenticide
Act,
amendment.
7 USC 136w.

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY PANEL

SECTION 1. Section 25(d) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act is amended by—

(1) inserting immediately after the fifth sentence the following new sentences: "The subpanels may be composed of scientists other than members of the advisory panel, as deemed necessary for the purpose of evaluating scientific studies relied upon by the Administrator with respect to proposed action. Such additional scientists shall be selected by the advisory panel."; and

7 USC 136d.

(2) adding at the end thereof the following sentence: "Whenever the Administrator exercises authority under section 6(c) of this Act to immediately suspend the registration of any pesticide to prevent an imminent hazard, the Administrator shall promptly submit to the advisory panel for comment, as to the impact on health and the environment, the action taken to suspend the registration of such pesticide."

PEER REVIEW

7 USC 136w.

SEC. 2. (a) Section 25 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection (e):

"(e) PEER REVIEW.—The Administrator shall, by written procedures, provide for peer review with respect to the design, protocols, and conduct of major scientific studies conducted under this Act by the Environmental Protection Agency or by any other Federal agency, any State or political subdivision thereof, or any institution or individual under grant, contract, or cooperative agreement from or with the Environmental Protection Agency. In such procedures, the Administrator shall also provide for peer review, using the advisory panel established under subsection (d) of this section or appropriate experts appointed by the Administrator from a current list of nominees maintained by such panel, with respect to the results of any such scientific studies relied upon by the Administrator with respect to actions the Administrator may take relating to the change in classification, suspension, or cancellation of a pesticide: *Provided*, That whenever the Administrator determines that circumstances do not permit the peer review of the results of any such scientific study prior to the Administrator's exercising authority under section 6(c) of this Act to immediately suspend the registration of any pesticide to prevent an imminent hazard, the Administrator shall promptly thereafter provide for the conduct of peer review as pro-

7 USC 136d.

vided in this sentence. The evaluations and relevant documentation constituting the peer review that relate to the proposed scientific studies and the results of the completed scientific studies shall be included in the submission for comment forwarded by the Administrator to the advisory panel as provided in subsection (d). As used in this subsection, the term 'peer review' shall mean an independent evaluation by scientific experts, either within or outside the Environmental Protection Agency, in the appropriate disciplines."

(b) The provisions of this section shall become effective upon publication in the Federal Register of final procedures for peer review as provided in this section, but in no event shall such provisions become effective later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act.

Comments.

"Peer review."
Publication in
Federal
Register.

7 USC 136w note.

AUTHORIZATION FOR APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 3. Section 31 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new sentence: "There are hereby authorized to be appropriated to carry out the provisions of this Act for the period beginning October 1, 1979, and ending September 30, 1980, such sums as may be necessary, but not in excess of \$72,160,000, and for the period beginning October 1, 1980, and ending September 30, 1981, such sums as may be necessary, but not in excess of \$77,500,000."

7 USC 136y.

CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW

SEC. 4. Section 25(a) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph (4):

7 USC 136w.

"(4) RULE AND REGULATION REVIEW.—

"(A) CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, simultaneously with promulgation of any rule or regulation under this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a copy thereof to the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives. Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the rule or regulation shall not become effective, if within 90 calendar days of continuous session of Congress after the date of promulgation, both Houses of Congress adopt a concurrent resolution, the matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: "That Congress disapproves the rule or regulation promulgated by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency dealing with the matter of _____, which rule or regulation was transmitted to Congress on _____, the blank spaces therein being appropriately filled.

Transmittal.

"(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—If at the end of 60 calendar days of continuous session of Congress after the date of promulgation of a rule or regulation, no committee of either House of Congress has reported or been discharged from further consideration of a concurrent resolution disapproving the rule or regulation, and neither House has adopted such a resolution, the rule or regulation may go into effect immediately. If, within such 60 calendar days, such a committee has reported or been discharged from further consideration of such a resolution, or either House has adopted such a resolution, the rule or regulation may go into effect not sooner than 90 calendar days of continuous session of Congress after its promulgation unless disapproved as provided in subparagraph (A).

“(C) For the purposes of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this paragraph—

“(i) continuity of session is broken only by an adjournment of Congress sine die; and

“(ii) the days on which either House is not in session because of an adjournment of more than 3 days to a day certain are excluded in the computation of 60 and 90 calendar days of continuous session of Congress.

“(D) EFFECT OF CONGRESSIONAL INACTION.—Congressional inaction on or rejection of a resolution of disapproval shall not be deemed an expression of approval of such rule.

“(E) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—

“(i) Any interested party, including any person who participated in the rulemaking involved, may institute such actions in the appropriate district court of the United States, including actions for declaratory judgment, as may be appropriate to construe the constitutionality of any provision of this paragraph. The district court immediately shall certify all questions of the constitutionality of this paragraph to the United States court of appeals for the circuit involved, which shall hear the matter sitting en banc.

“(ii) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any decision on a matter certified under clause (i) of this subparagraph shall be reviewable by appeal directly to the Supreme Court of the United States. Such appeal shall be brought not later than 20 days after the decision of the court of appeals.

“(iii) It shall be the duty of the court of appeals and of the Supreme Court of the United States to advance on the docket and to expedite to the greatest possible extent the disposition of any matter certified under clause (i) of this subparagraph.”.

Approved December 17, 1980.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 96-1020 (Comm. on Agriculture) and No. 96-1480 (Comm. of Conference).

SENATE REPORT No. 96-764 accompanying S. 2587 (Comm. on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 126 (1980):

June 17, considered and failed of passage in House.

June 24, considered and passed House.

July 24, S. 2587 passed Senate; passage vacated and H.R. 7018, amended, passed in lieu.

Dec. 1, Senate agreed to conference report.

Dec. 4, House agreed to conference report.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 16, No. 51:

Dec. 17, Presidential statement.