



FEE PARITY FOR 3A, 3B CERTIFIED APPLICATORS

BACKGROUND

New York State maintains 27 categories of commercial pesticide applicators. Every professional pesticide applicator must become and remain certified within at least one of these categories. Currently State law mandates a fee of \$200 per year for class 3A and 3B commercial applicators, yet all other commercial applicator classes pay \$150 per year.

Category 3A: *Commercial Pesticide license category for Ornamentals, Shade Trees, and Turf.*

Category 3B: *Commercial Pesticide license category for Turf.*

CURRENTLY

3A, 3B pay \$200/year (\$600 over 3 years) and have an annual certification period.

The other 25 categories pay \$450 every 3 years and have a three year certification period.

RECOMMENDATION

NYSTA recommends an amendment to Article VII of the budget bill to modify and align the certification fee and certification period, for Class 3A and 3B commercial pesticide applicators, with the other certified commercial applicator classes. We support S1045 (Funke) / A1630 (Skoufis) and recommend this language be inserted into the FY 2018-19 Budget Bill.

The fiscal impact to New York State will be minimal. Even though some revenue will be lost due to a reduction in the fee rate, we anticipate new revenue to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation based on employee turnover during the course of a year. NYSDEC estimates the net state financial impact to be less than \$140,000 per year. There will be a savings in staff time according to the NYSDEC if this change is made.