



Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association

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SB 2010 – The Illinois Fertilizer Act – with Senate Amendment 1

This legislation provides a framework in The Fertilizer Act to secure a stable, well-funded and responsive research and education program to address nutrient efficiency and water quality challenges. The bill also provides funding from the fertilizer industry to support the IL Dept of Ag fertilizer regulatory programs. The challenges facing nutrient use are many and the Illinois ag industry is seeking passage of SB 2010 to proactively address these challenges using industry resources to fund and implement nutrient use programs.

Main Points in SB 2010, Amendment #1:

- Updates the definitions in the Illinois Fertilizer Act consistent with the American Association of Plant Food Control Officials national handbook.
- Streamlines the licensing of fertilizer distributors and reduces paperwork for custom blending operations. This ensures that all distributors of bulk fertilizer and blended fertilizer are licensed by IDA. Ensures that fees from licenses and from fertilizer product registration are sufficient to fund the administration of the fertilizer regulatory programs to sustain the future of fertilizer inspection, licensing and consumer protection programs.
- Deletes the Fertilizer Research and Education Council and replaces it with the creation of the Nutrient Research and Education Council (NREC). Fertilizer research and education funds will be protected by establishing this public-private partnership between the industry and the IDA. The NREC will be made up of fertilizer industry organizations, grower organizations, agronomy experts and the Director of the IDA, with non-voting status given to environmental organizations and the Directors of the Illinois EPA.
- Funding for the NREC will be established by a separate assessment on fertilizer tonnage that will be paid directly to the NREC (a private foundation) instead of to the IDA. Payment of the NREC assessment will be required in order to be a licensed Illinois fertilizer distributor.
- The NREC members will set an annual tonnage assessment in the range of 50 cents to \$3.00, paid directly to the NREC by the distributors, who will collect it from the end users. The NREC will determine the amount of the assessment necessary each year based on the research and education priorities of the industry, and will also fund cost-share and demonstration programs.
- Assuring additional resources for nutrient research, education and implementation of nutrient efficiency and environmental protection programs are an integral part of the nutrient stewardship strategy that the ag industry is implementing with the Illinois Department of Agriculture and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. NREC will work to address Illinois agriculture's role in reducing Gulf Hypoxia and also work to reduce nutrient losses to waters of Illinois.
- SB 2010 is supported by the agricultural industry organizations and the environmental organizations. It has passed the Senate Ag Committee and will soon be voted on by the full Senate.

For questions contact Jean Payne, IFCA President, at (309) 826-3236

Representing the Agricultural Input Industry