

**SUPPORT
AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH
BY ESTABLISHING AN ECOLOGICALLY BASED
MOSQUITO MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IN THE
COMMONWEALTH**

***Purpose of H. 937 & S. 556:** replaces the Commonwealth's outdated and expensive mosquito management system with one that is more effective, affordable, transparent, ecologically responsible, and scientifically based.*



Summary of the bill:

1. Creates a Mosquito Management Board with a membership that will prioritize public health and the environment.
2. Requires a state mosquito management plan that must adopt a **step-by-step approach to management based on quantifiable thresholds for action**. Pesticides may not be used unless education, monitoring, and habitat modification have already been attempted.
3. Allows pesticide use only for disease control; and **prohibits aerial application of pesticides**.
4. Keeps the existing mosquito control districts but requires districts to adopt the ecological approach to mosquito management described above.
5. Empowers towns and cities to choose from a “menu” of mosquito management services, ranging from public education up to pesticide use. **Municipalities only pay for the services they choose**, in contrast to the existing one-size-fits-all system that forces municipalities to pay the full cost of being in a district even if they don't want certain services, like pesticide spraying.
6. Requires 72 hour notice before pesticide spraying, and **allows residents to opt out of spraying**. Beekeepers and organic farmers are opted-out by default.
7. Establishes quantifiable conditions for declaring an arbovirus public health emergency and puts responsibility for responding to the emergency with the department of public health. **Aerial spraying is still prohibited** during a state of emergency.
8. **Bans pesticides containing PFAS** from being used in mosquito control activities.

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Common-Sense Provisions

- ❖ Protect health and the environment by prioritizing public education, mosquito monitoring, and habitat modification, and only using pesticides when scientifically defined levels of disease-carrying mosquitoes have been found in the area.
- ❖ Increase funding and capacity for mosquito monitoring, surveillance, and public education efforts.
- ❖ Provide full transparency and accountability within any mosquito-borne disease management program, including publicly available notification around larviciding and adulticiding applications, and honoring local opt out agreements.

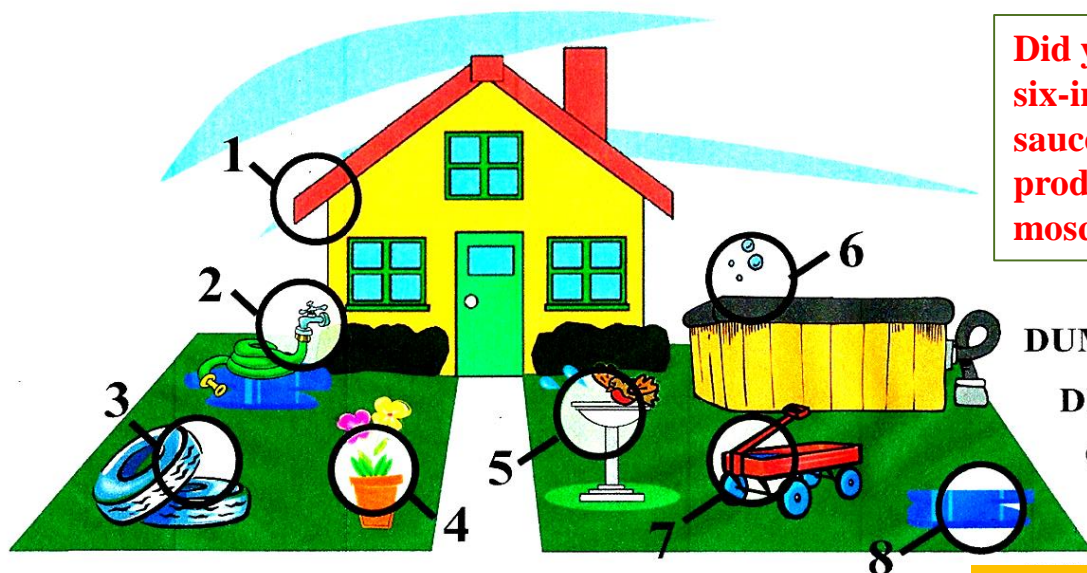
PFAS - Toxic Forever Chemicals

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals that includes PFOA, PFOS, GenX, and many other chemicals. PFAS are called “forever chemicals” since they do not break down in the environment and build up in our blood stream. They are associated with a variety of ailments, including suppressed immune function, thyroid disease, testicular and kidney disease, cancers, and liver damage.

Tests commissioned by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) of a jug of Anvil 10+10, the pesticide used in the aerial spraying programs of Massachusetts, and many other states, reveals that it contains PFOA and HFPO-DA. Subsequent tests by EPA and MassDEP confirmed PFAS in Anvil and other pesticides.

<https://www.peer.org/aerially-sprayed-pesticide-contains-pfas/>

Eliminate Mosquito Breeding Sites Where You Live



Did you know that a six-inch puddle or saucer of water can produce 1,000 mosquitoes a week?

**DUMP IT
DRAIN IT
CLEAN IT UP**

1. Keep gutters clean
2. Repair leaky faucets
3. Eliminate debris that holds water
4. Drain excess water from plant pots and saucers
5. Change birdbaths twice a week
6. Maintain pools and spas; keep water from pooling on covers
7. Turn toys and equipment upside down to prevent water from collecting inside
8. Avoid overwatering

Picture above courtesy of Summit County, Ohio Public Health

**For more
information
go to
MassQuito
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