

# State Legislation/Regulation Section

## Of the 1997 GCSAA Legislative/Regulatory Agenda

### STATE LEGISLATION/ REGULATION

#### Posting and Notification

Bills on the use of pesticides and posting/notification requirements may continue to appear (see also Preemption). Proposals regarding public buildings may signal future government action affecting other pesticide users in those states.

Plan of Action: With the assistance of RISE, GCSAA will continue to monitor and report on posting and notification legislation as it is introduced in the states. The association will also notify members of grassroots lobbying opportunities and communicate a GCSAA position as appropriate.

#### Preemption/Primacy

Many states have preemption laws

to prohibit municipalities from adopting local laws and regulations regarding posting and notification of the use of pesticides and hazardous chemicals. Attempts to overturn or challenge these laws are possible in several states, as environmentalists push local governments to act.

Plan of Action: GCSAA will continue to monitor and report on preemption legislation, communicate the position of the association and support grassroots efforts and coalition-building in the states. RISE members can also be expected to lobby on this issue.

#### Effluent

State and local (district) laws and regulations govern water reuse and effluent water issues, which can have a significant impact on golf course maintenance and development. The level and effectiveness of state regulation varies.

Plan of Action: GCSAA will continue to monitor and report on state effluent and water reuse legislation.

Proactive efforts will be undertaken to open lines of communication among "stakeholders" and identify or develop good models.

#### Water Resources

Appropriation and the use of surface water and groundwater is expected to re-

ceive increased attention in state legislature and localities.

Plan of Action: GCSAA will continue to monitor and report on government activity regarding the use of water resources and continue to evaluate developments in regard to a proactive role in the management of water issues nationwide.

#### Environmental Audits

State legislation offers regulated entities legal privilege and/or immunity from state fines for state violations discovered during voluntary environmental audits, as long as corrective action is taken. Almost half the states have adopted laws, which are seen as an effective incentive to conduct audits. The EPA opposes privilege provisions and has threatened to pull delegated enforcement authority in privilege states.

Plan of Action: GCSAA will monitor and report on legislative proposals and publicize grassroots lobbying opportunities. GCSAA will also work with the Ad Hoc Group on Environmental Audit and Disclosure Legislation coalition.

#### Wetlands

State wetlands legislation ranges from easing or eliminating the restrictions on wetlands use to strict permitting and licensing of wetlands, including redefining what constitutes a wetlands area. These laws have the greatest impact on golf course renovation and development.

Plan of Action: GCSAA will monitor and report on proposals to amend wetlands laws, publicize grassroots lobbying opportunities and provide compliance information. The Environmental Principles for Golf Courses will serve to answer inquiries about GCSAA's position on wetlands, and reports about members' efforts to provide or preserve wetlands will be publicized.

*(Continued on Page 26)*

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## State Legislation—

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### Endangered Species

Some enforcement of the Endangered Species Act has been delegated to the states. Proposed legislation includes classification/listing guidelines and resolution of various controversies involving economic impact and enforcement issues.

Plan of Action: GCSAA will monitor and report on proposals to amend the Endangered Species Act, publicize grassroots lobbying opportunities and provide compliance information. The Environmental Principles for Golf Courses will serve to answer inquiries about GCSAA's position on endangered species, and reports about members' efforts to provide or preserve habitats for endangered or threatened species will be publicized.

### Pesticide Applicator Licensing

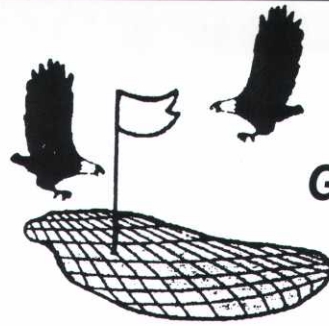
State licensing laws may be subject to modification, including changes of definitions, scope and registration fees.

Plan of Action: GCSAA will monitor and report on legislation concerning pesticide applicator licensing and publicize grassroots lobbying opportunities.

### Multiple Chemical Sensitivity / IEI

Efforts are being made in some states to recognize multiple chemical sensitivity (also known as idiopathic environmental intolerance) in public policy, so public funds can be used for research, services and treatment.

Plan of Action: GCSAA will monitor and report on government activity and work through RISE to identify grassroots lobbying opportunities for superintendents.



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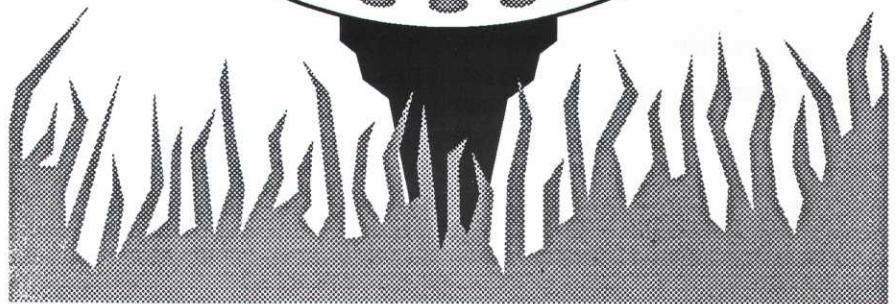
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