



State Affairs Update

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2015 State Legislative Sessions

- All states will meet in full session
- 175,000 bills expected to be filed
 - About 3,000 will reference the word ‘seed’
- 20,000 bills expected to be enacted
- Anticipate being actively involved with 150 - 175 bills that directly impact the seed industry
 - Monitor another 300-400 with potential

State Legislature Watch List for 2015

- Consistency of state laws and regulations
- GMO labeling & anti-technology initiatives
- Neonicotinoids Regulations & Pollinators
- Noxious weed & invasive species control
- Hemp regulations
- Funding of enabling state infrastructure
- Crop specific issues as they arise

2015 State Legislative Issues So Far

- Biotechnology & GMO Labeling
- Hemp Regulations
- Pollinators
- Invasive Species

Seed Lab Uniformity

- All involved organizations are committed to this effort and are willing to put forth the effort to resolve the multiple issues outlined
- It's a very complex issue involving many passionate and dedicated individuals. As such, it is a process that will take an extended amount of time to complete.
- However, limited funding for many of the proposals will inhibit further movement until resolved.

Biotechnology

- FL SB 416 Sen. Jeremy Ring (DEM-FL)
Requires the Florida Dept of Ag to create lists of raw agricultural commodities at high risk or potentially at risk for cultivation in a genetically engineered form
- NY AB 6509 Asm. Felix Ortiz (DEM-NY)
Strict liability - Requires persons who sell or distribute genetically engineered plants, planting stock or seeds to provide written instructions to purchasers or growers of such stock.

Biotechnology

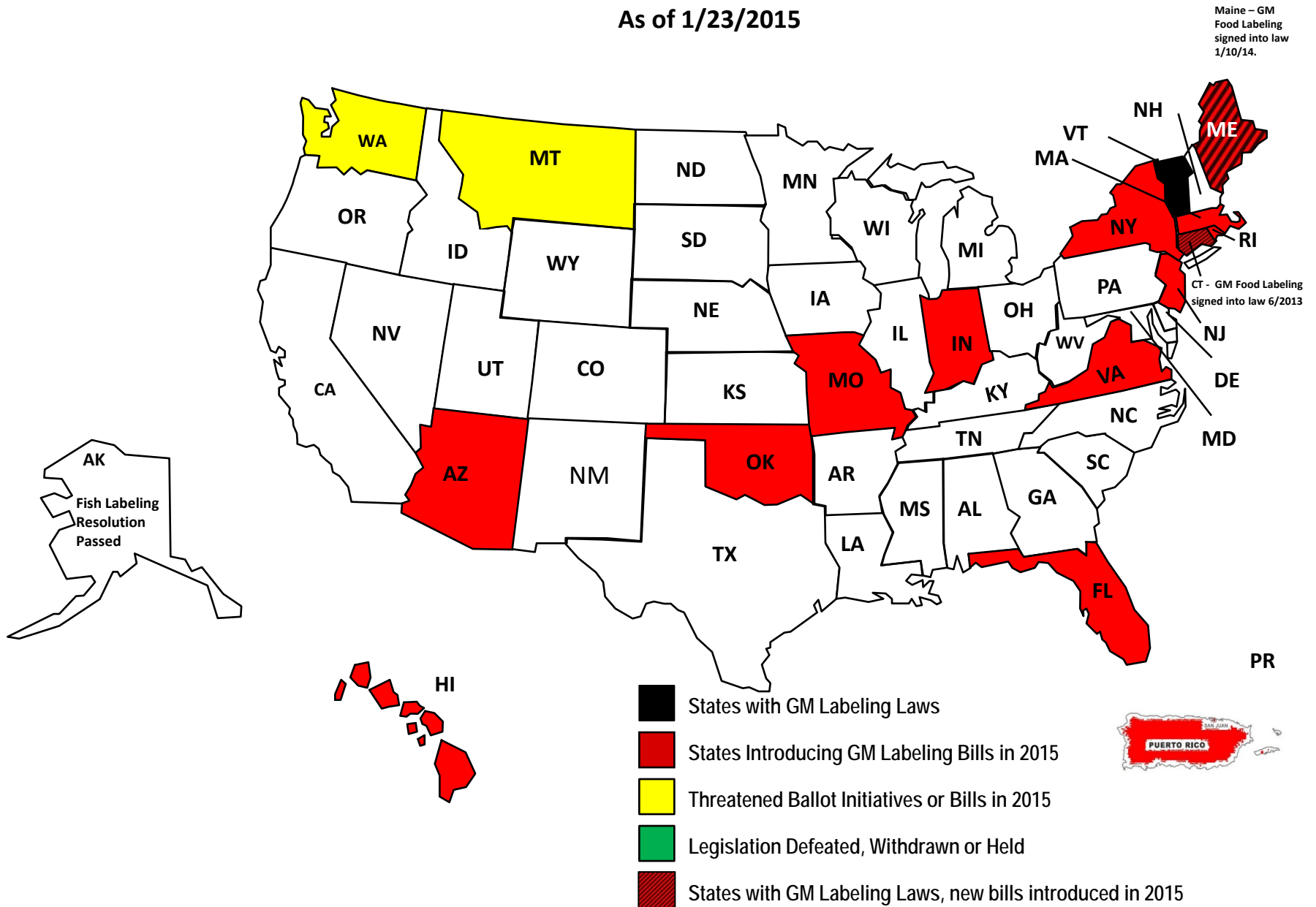
- PR PC 387 Rep. Waldemar Quiles Rodriguez
Amends “Law of Promotion and Development of Agricultural Biotechnology Companies Puerto Rico” for clarification
- Idaho – pulled from consideration
Pre-emption of local government entities from enacting GMO laws

GMO Labeling

- 25 bills filed thus far
AZ, FL, IL (2), IN (2), ME, MT, MO, NJ, NY (9),
PA (2), PR, RI, VA, WA
- Language of all fairly similar
- Special group being formed in NY to deal with the numerous bills.

2015 Biotech Food Labeling Activity

As of 1/23/2015



Hemp

- 19 bills filed
- Licensing, research, clarification between marijuana and industrial hemp, promotion, legalization
- Production is illegal per federal statutes

Invasive Species

- 9 bills filed
- Additions and/or deletions of various species

Pollinators

- 8 bills filed
- Response to President's 'mandate' for State Pollinator Plans
- Potential pesticide label cancellations
- Two defines honey bee products as ag products (taxes)
- 168 bills filed with the word 'honey' in the bill

Other Bills of Interest

- CA SB 47 Sen. Jerry Hill (DEM-CA)
Authorizes a study analyzing synthetic turf for potential adverse health impacts
- IA HF 41 Rep. Bruce Hunter (DEM-IA)
Requires employers to provide employees with meal periods and rest periods, and provides penalties.

Other Bills of Interest

- IN SB 498 Sen. Michael Delph
Authorizes the department of natural resources to sell or distribute nursery stock or wildflower seeds for planting and/or distribution within the state.
- MO SB 54 Sen. Brian Munzlinger (REP-MO)
Prohibits certain types of nuisance actions from being brought when the property owner has a government issued permit

Other Bills of Interest

- MN SF 132 Sen. Roger Reinert (DFL-MN)
Changes the seed law so that it doesn't apply to a religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational organization that receives less than \$5,000 in gross receipts in a calendar year from the sale of seeds at a single location for use in the state.
- NE LB 544 Sen. Burke Harr (NON-NE)
Exempts "Seed Libraries" from the state seed law, and creates a Community Garden Act.

Other Bills of Interest

- NJ AJR 60 Asm. Gilbert Wilson (DEM-NJ)
Designates June of each year as "Native Plant Appreciation Month."
- NY AB 1991 Asm. Clifford Crouch (REP-NY)
Creates the crime of agri-bioterrorism.

Other Bills of Interest

- OR HB 2445 (Governor's bill)
Allows the Director of Agriculture and State Department of Agriculture to choose methods for giving notice regarding quarantines, control areas and related rules.
- OR HB 2674 Rep. Peter Buckley (DEM-OR)
Requires the State Department of Agriculture to establish control areas for growing commodities that are genetically engineered agricultural or horticultural plant products.

Other Bills of Interest

- OR HB 2675 Rep. Peter Buckley (DEM-OR)
Requires the OR DOA to maintain a database of GE crops (public information) and authorizes the department to designate and/or prohibit crop production areas for species of proprietary genetically engineered crops. Violations are subject to civil penalty, not to exceed \$10,000.

Other Bills of Interest

- WA SB 5273 Sen. Mark Schoesler (REP-WA)
Defines 'native seed' and 'reclamation seed' in the seed law, and requires testing for 'viability' as defined.
- ND SB 2261 Sen's. Wanzek, Larsen, Miller / Rep's Brandenburg, D. Johnson, Pollert
Solidifies cover crop seed within the law.
Increase from \$5000 to \$10,000 the maximum penalties for violation of state seed laws (most commonly PVPA violations)

Thought for the day

Remember, legislation is like Jazz –
it's what is not happening that is important.