

Joint Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries

Bill Summary

Bill Number: H.136

Title: An Act prohibiting the use and sale of toxic sludge

Sponsor: Representative Owens of Watertown

Cosponsors: Representative Kassner of Hamilton; Senator Moore

Hearing Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 10:00 PM - 01:00 PM, B-1

Reporting Date: Saturday, November 15th, 2025

Similar Matters: None

Prior History

New file; No prior history

Current Law

Chapter 128 of the Massachusetts General Laws relates to agriculture.

Summary

This bill defines the term “sludge.” The bill states that a person cannot apply, on any land in the state, sludge that is generated from a municipal, commercial, or industrial wastewater treatment plant, compost material that was produced with sludge generated from those locations, or any other product that is intended to be used as fertilizer, soil amendment, topsoil replacement, or mulch that contain sludge from the those locations. The bill states that a person cannot sell or distribute the compost, fertilizer, soil amendment, topsoil replacement, or mulch that is derived from sludge generated from a municipal, commercial, or industrial wastewater treatment plant or sewage.

The prohibitions on application in the bill do not apply to the disposal of sludge in a landfill, the land application of compost not derived from sludge, the land application of sludge derived from calcium carbonate production, and the land application of material from composting toilets.