

Arkansas lawmakers failed to pass a bill that would have given the governor the authority to appoint all members of the state's agricultural regulatory agency. Members of the Senate Agriculture, Forestry and Economic Development Committee today (Tues) voted against the proposed legislation. Senate Bill 80 would have allowed the state's governor to appoint all members of the Arkansas Plant Board. Speaking against the bill, Republican Sen. Bill Sample of Hot Springs said it would give the executive branch too much control over agriculture policy.

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"...on that board."

Sen. David Wallace, R-Leachville, sponsored the bill. He said it was necessary to keep the regulatory agency in check since the legislature has no influence over it.

News02

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"...are not political?"

Currently, most of the Plant Board's members are appointed directly by various groups representing agriculture-related industries like seeds, livestock and chemicals. The bill failed on a voice vote.

A bill aimed at changing the makeup of the agency tasked with regulating farming in Arkansas failed in the state legislature. Senate Bill 80, sponsored by Republican Sen. David Wallace of Leachville, failed on a voice vote today (Tues) in the Senate Agriculture Committee. The bill would have given the governor the authority to appoint all members of the state Plant Board, instead of some being directly appointed by industry groups. Speaking before the vote, Wallace responded to criticism that the bill would introduce undue political influence to a non-partisan regulatory board.

News03

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“...person in Arkansas.”

Members of the Arkansas Plant Board set laws and regulations concerning various types of agriculture in the state. A similar bill which would require industry groups to submit board members to the governor for approval is set to go before the state House of Representatives.