

Senate Committee on Agriculture

Senator Cathleen Galgiani, Chair

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2017 Legislative Summary

(2017-2018 Session)

Introduction

This publication provides a comprehensive list of bills heard by the Senate Committee on Agriculture as well as a brief synopsis of the oversight and informational hearings held during the 2017 legislative year.

This report is intended to provide a quick reference to bills considered by the Committee and is not intended to provide a comprehensive analysis of the bill. Each summary includes the final status of the bill. Bills the Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law also include their chapter references.

The Committee also keeps a record of all oversight and informational hearings. The record includes the hearing agenda, background materials developed by Committee staff, testimony, and supporting materials submitted by witnesses. In addition, oversight and informational hearings are generally audio and/or video recorded. Those recordings are posted on the Senate's website at <http://senate.ca.gov/media-archive>.

If you would like additional information about a particular bill or oversight or informational hearing presented in this report, please contact the Committee office by phone at (916) 651-1508 or visit the Committee's website at <http://sagri.senate.ca.gov>. The Legislature also maintains a website where all bills and analyses are readily available. This website can be accessed at <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>.

Senate Bills

SB 243 (Galgiani)

Citrus disease prevention.

This bill appropriates \$9,616,000 from the Citrus Disease Management Account to the Department of Food and Agriculture for operating expenses necessary for the prevention and management of citrus diseases.

Signed into law. Chapter 10, Statutes of 2017.

SB 276 (Dodd)

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: exemptions.

As heard by this committee, this bill would have exempted the Healthy Soils Program and the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program from requirements that the California Department of Food and Agriculture review proposed projects funded by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for potential adverse impacts such as a net increase in criteria pollutants, toxic air contaminants, and hazardous air pollutants; ground and surface water impacts; and truck traffic and odor.

Held in the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

SB 335 (Cannella)

Nursery Advisory Board.

This bill codifies the Nursery Advisory Board within the California Department of Food and Agriculture to provide recommendations to the secretary on all matters pertaining to the nursery industry.

Signed into law. Chapter 234, Statutes of 2017.

SB 368 (McGuire)

Horse racing: fairs: funding.

This bill provides that any unallocated balance, as specified, from the Fair and Exposition Fund as well funding appropriated by the legislature or otherwise designated for California fairs, is to be continuously appropriated to the secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture for capital outlay to California fairs.

Signed into law. Chapter 808, Statutes of 2017.

SB 475 (Galgiani) Citrus disease prevention: Citrus Disease Management Account.

This bill would provide a continuous appropriation of money from several sources to be made available to the Citrus Disease Management Account within the California Department of Food and Agriculture for the purpose of combating citrus-specific pests, diseases, and their vectors.

This bill is awaiting hearing in the Senate Committee on Agriculture.

SB 782 (Skinner) School meals: California-grown food.

This bill would establish the California Grown Fresh School Meals Grant Program within CDFA to provide grants for public schools to buy California-grown food and expand the number of freshly prepared school meals that use these food products.

This bill is awaiting hearing in the Assembly Committee on Agriculture.

Assembly Bills

AB 243 (Cooper) California Beef Commission.

This bill would create the California Beef Commission to augment and support the work of the California Beef Council to expand beef markets and improve competitiveness, conduct research, and negotiate with government agencies. This bill would prescribe membership, powers and duties, fees, actions and penalties, and implementation, continuation, and termination voting procedures. The commission would not become operative unless a favorable producer referendum vote occurs before June 1, 2019.

This bill is awaiting hearing in the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

AB 376 (Chavez) Veterans benefits: veteran farmers or ranchers.

This bill requires by July 1, 2018, the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the California Department of Veterans Affairs, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture to post information on their respective Web sites to assist, educate, train, and otherwise support California's military veterans to enter into farming or ranching careers in California.

Signed into law. Chapter 188, Statutes of 2017.

AB 564 (Agriculture Committee) **Food and agriculture: fruits, nuts and vegetables: inspections.**

This bill authorizes the California Department of Food and Agriculture to regulate and enforce food safety programs adopted by the state or by the federal government for raw unprocessed fruits, nuts, or vegetables.

Signed into law. Chapter 79, Statutes of 2017.

AB 768 (Aguiar-Curry) **Certified farmers' markets: enforcement: civil penalties.**

This bill repeals the sunset date for enforcement provisions of direct marketing.

Signed into law. Chapter 83, Statutes of 2017.

AB 822 (Caballero) **Institutional purchasers: sale of California produce.**

This bill requires all California state-owned or state-run institutions, except public universities and colleges and school districts, to give bid preferences to California-grown agricultural products, as specified.

Signed into law. Chapter 785, Statutes of 2017.

AB 861 (Dahle) **Africanized honey bees.**

This bill authorizes a county agricultural commissioner, in the absence of a local ordinance, to take abatement action against a hive containing Africanized or overly defensive honey bees if it is determined that the hive is a public nuisance.

Signed into law. Chapter 143, Statutes of 2017.

AB 933 (Agriculture Committee) **Food and agriculture omnibus bill.**

This bill authorizes specified funds appropriated to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to be disbursed to the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association to offset program and personnel expenses; authorizes, rather than requires, CDFA to expend funds on fair exhibits and judges, as specified; requires milk products to be labeled with a date that would ensure consumer quality; and authorizes the Olive Oil Commission of California to engage in public education activities.

Signed into law. Chapter 144, Statutes of 2017.

AB 944 (Limón)**California Spiny Lobster Commission.**

This bill creates the California Spiny Lobster Commission to maintain the spiny lobster commercial fishing industry through research, promotion, and education. This bill prescribes membership, powers and duties, implementing and voting procedures, assessments and recordkeeping, and procedures for continuation or termination of the commission. This bill does not become operative until after a favorable producer referendum vote occurs.

Signed into law. Chapter 503, Statutes of 2017.

AB 954 (Chiu)**Food labeling: guidelines: quality and safety dates.**

This bill requires the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), in consultation with the Department of Public Health, to publish information by July 1, 2018, that encourages food manufacturers, processors, and retailers responsible for the labeling of food products to voluntarily use specified “best by” and “use by” labels that communicate quality and safety dates, respectively. This bill also requires CDFA to promote consistent use of those terms. This bill also establishes the Consumer Education Account within the Department of Food and Agriculture Fund.

Signed into law. Chapter 787, Statutes of 2017.

AB 1126 (Agriculture Committee)**Pesticides: carbon monoxide.**

As heard in this committee, this bill would repeal the sunset date that authorizes the use of carbon monoxide to control burrowing rodent pests, subject to specified requirements, under the condition that a warning label be permanently affixed to the carbon monoxide delivery device.

The bill was amended in the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality to sunset the legislation after five years.

Signed into law. Chapter 112, Statutes of 2017.

AB 1131 (Lackey)**District agricultural associations: joint powers agreements: audits.**

This bill requires that, if a district agricultural association has entered into a joint powers agreement to create a joint powers agency to manage the responsibilities of the association, the joint powers agency also be responsible for ensuring the association’s annual audit.

Signed into law. Chapter 556, Statutes of 2017.

AB 1348 (Aguiar-Curry)

Farmer Equity Act of 2017.

This bill requires the California Department of Food and Agriculture to ensure the inclusion of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of food and agriculture laws, regulations, and policies and programs.

Signed into law. Chapter 620, Statutes of 2017.

AB 1351 (Caballero)

District agricultural associations: authorized activities.

This bill allows, under a district agriculture association (DAA) leasing authority and with the California Department of General Services' approval, the lease, construction, and maintenance of affordable housing, as specified, on DAA property.

Signed into law. Chapter 559, Statutes of 2017.

AB 1486 (Caballero)

Milk products: licenses: fees.

This bill consolidates milk products plant permits, increases license and permit fees, and updates food safety laws in regards to the manufacture and sale of frozen and soft-serve dairy and nondairy products.

Signed into law. Chapter 153, Statutes of 2017.

Oversight and Informational Hearings

01/30/17

**Bureau of Medical Cannabis Regulation:
Status of regulations, interagency coordination, and stakeholder outreach.**

This oversight hearing provided updates on Proposition 64: the Control, Regulate and Tax Adult Use of Marijuana Act and the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act.

The hearing provided expert testimony from the Bureau of Medical Cannabis Regulation through the Department of Consumer Affairs, the undersecretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), the branch chief of CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing through the CDFA, and the director of the California Department of Public Health.

This oversight hearing was held jointly by the Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development (lead committee), the Senate Committee on Health, and the Senate Committee on Agriculture. The hearing was held at the State Capitol, Sacramento, California.