
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Senator Melissa Hurtado, Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No:	AB 1505	Hearing Date:	7/1/25
Author:	Committee on Agriculture		
Version:	6/19/25 Amended		
Urgency:	No	Fiscal:	Yes
Consultant:	Reichel Everhart		

Subject: Food and agriculture: omnibus bill

SUMMARY:

This bill extends the Vertebrate Pest Control Research (VPCR) program to 2035. The VPCRs current repeal date is January 1, 2026. Additionally, this bill would clarify current law to specify that a medically important antimicrobial drug only be administered to livestock when it is ordered by a licensed veterinarian and meets the requirements of federal and state law, along with the already established Business Professions Code Section 4826.6 requirements. Finally, this bill would add enforcement to the certified mobile farmers' market to mirror enforcement provisions of "static" certified farmers' markets.

BACKGROUND AND EXISTING LAW:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the Vertebrate Pest Control Research (VPCR) program and the Vertebrate Pest Control Research Advisory Committee (VPCRAC) to be administered by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to deal with species that pose "a significant threat to the welfare of the state's agricultural economy and the public"¹ (Food and Agriculture Code 6025-6029).
- 2) Prohibits an important antimicrobial drug be administered to livestock unless ordered by a licensed veterinarian through prescription or veterinary feed directive, pursuant to a veterinarian-client-patient relationship that meets the requirements of the Business Professions Code 4826.6 (Food and Agriculture Code 14401).
- 3) Defines a certified mobile farmers' market to mean a mobile food facility that moves agricultural products to point-of-sale locations to sell directly to communities. Requires certified farmers' market operators comply with certification, labeling, and identification requirements, itemize lists of all

¹ <https://vpcrac.org/about/vpcrac-history>

products, along with other Health and Safety Code requirements (Food and Agriculture Code 47007).

PROPOSED LAW:

This bill:

- 1) Extends the sunset date for the Vertebrate Pests Control Research program from January 1, 2026 to January 1, 2035.
- 2) Clarifies and conforms the medically important antimicrobial drug code to comply with federal and state, as well as Business Professions Code 4826.6 that is already required to be in compliance with.
- 3) Adds enforcement to certified mobile farmers' markets allowing an enforcing officer to inspect documents, products, containers and equipment and take samples to inspect and test. The enforcing officer may also seize and hold as evidence specified products in violation of this chapter. This enforcement models the current enforcement provisions for "static" certified farmers' markets.

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:

The author states:

"Each year, various private and public groups discover minor problems with state statutes affecting agriculture and policies under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Agriculture. These minor problems do not warrant separate and costly bills. According to the Legislative Analyst, the cost of producing a bill in 2001-02 was \$17,890.

"Legislators respond by combining several of these minor topics into an annual "omnibus bill." In 2022, for example, the Assembly Committee on Agriculture (Ag Com) omnibus bill was AB 1959 (Ag Com) which contained noncontroversial statutory changes to three areas of local government law, avoiding approximately \$35,780 in legislative costs. Although this practice may violate a strict interpretation of the single-subject and germaneness rules as presented in *Californians for an Open Primary v. McPherson* (2006), it is an expeditious and relatively inexpensive way to respond to multiple requests.

"This Omnibus bill covers three issues:

- 1) Extending the Vertebrate Pest Control Research program to January 1 2035.

- 2) Conform Medically Important Antimicrobial code to federal regulations.
- 3) Add enforcement mechanism for Certified Mobile Farmers Markets that mirror the current enforcement provisions of “non-mobile” or “static’ certified farmers’ markets.”

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION:

None received.

COMMENTS:

VPCR research projects investigate effective and economical alternative materials for the control of vertebrate pests. The Vertebrate Pest Control Research Advisory Committee (VPCRAC) solicit and consider research proposals for alternative humane methods of control, and continue the state's current vertebrate pest control product registrations until such time as effective alternative products are available.

This research is for the development of scientific data required to maintain registrations. VPCRAC cooperates with the US Department of Agriculture in funding research programs to maintain, develop, and register vertebrate pest control materials used in California.

VPCR will be repealed on January 1, 2026. This bill will extend the VPCR until January 1, 2035.

The enforcement provisions for the certified mobile farmers’ markets are requested by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

RELATED LEGISLATION:

AB 2786 (Bonta) Chapter 915, Statutes of 2024: Required a certified mobile farmers’ market operator to be permitted and operate as a mobile food facility, among other requirements.

AB 1959 (Committee on Agriculture) Chapter 254, Statutes of 2022: This bill, among other things, extended the sunset on parts of the VPCR program until 2026.

AB 751 (Cooper) Chapter 372, States of 2015: This bill extends the sunset date of the VPCR program to 2026.

SB 872 (Denham) Chapter 176, Statutes of 2005. Extended for 10 years, until 2016, the Vertebrate Pest Control Research Program and Advisory Committee, among other things.

AB 2071 (Briggs) Chapter 338, States of 2000. This bill, among other things, extended the VPCR program to 2006.

AB 2776 (Waters) Chapter 757, Statutes of 1990: This bill required the Secretary of CDFA establish and administer a research program to control vertebrate pests in response to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) determining more studies were needed on rodenticides and similar products before approving them for use. Recognizing the need for such products, CDFA developed this program to support research and data for the US EPA requirements.

PRIOR ACTIONS:

Assembly Floor:	79 - 0
Assembly Appropriations Committee:	14 - 0
Assembly Agriculture Committee:	8 - 0

SUPPORT:

None received

OPPOSITION:

None received

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