#### SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE Senator Andreas Borgeas, Chair 2021 - 2022 Regular

Bill No: Author:	SB 1029 Hurtado	Hearing Date:	4/27/2022
Version:	2/15/22		
Urgency: Consultant:	No Reichel Everhart	Fiscal:	Yes

Subject: One Health Program: zoonotic diseases

### **SUMMARY**:

This bill requires the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to jointly establish a framework and administer the One Health Program to reduce the spread of disease from animals to humans.

# **BACKGROUND AND EXISTING LAW:**

Existing state law:

1) Establishes the Animal Health and Food Safety Services (AHFSS) within CDFA. The AHFSS assures that agricultural products are safe, available, and affordable for Californians.

Existing federal law:

1) One Health is a collaborative, multisectoral, and transdisciplinary approach—working at the local, regional, national, and global levels—with the goal of achieving optimal health outcomes, recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) One Health Office leads the agency's One Health efforts in the United States and abroad.

# **PROPOSED LAW:**

This bill:

- 1) Requires CDPH and CDFA to jointly establish and administer an interagency framework for responding to zoonotic diseases and reducing hazards to human and animal health, as set forth by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- 2) Requires CDPH and CDFA to work with stakeholders to develop the framework for the One Health Program. Stakeholders may include, but not be limited to:

- a. One Health Office of the CDC
- b. Medical Board of California
- c. Veterinary Medical Board
- d. Agricultural programs
- e. Institutes
- f. Schools within the University of California or the California State University system
- g. Community-based organizations
- 3) Requires CDPH and CDFA to establish goals, identify activities necessary to achieve those goals, and recommend legislation or other actions to advance One Health efforts.
- 4) Requires CDPH and CDFA to periodically submit joint reports to the legislature containing information described in paragraph (1), in accordance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.
- 5) Requires the Legislative Analyst's Office to evaluate the framework established and the implementation of any legislation or other actions based on that framework every three years.
- 6) Requires the bill is to be implemented upon appropriation by the Legislature.

# ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:

According to the author:

The One Health approach is a collaborative effort of multiple health science professions coming together to achieve optimal health for people, domestic animals, wildlife, plants and our environment.

Earlier this year, multiple horses in several counties in California were exposed and plagued with Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1) which causes respiratory disease, abortion, neonatal death, and the neurological disease known as equine herpesvirus myelocencephalopathy (EHM)1.

Due to the ease of transmission, the California State Veterinarian, Dr. Annette Jones D.V.M, recommended that events and all nonessential horse movement be postponed in an attempt to limit the spread of the virus.

Animals at risk of contracting new and emerging diseases can shake entire industries, but can also be a danger to human health. It is crucial for California to strengthen its efforts in preventing and responding to diseases with a One Health approach to help ease the negative effects these diseases leave behind.

SB 1029 addresses and furthers California's commitment to the One Health approach by requiring the California Department of Public Health and the California Department of Food and Agriculture to develop and administer a framework to carry out One Health program goals and principles.

The California Veterinary Medical Association writes in support of the bill, stating the veterinary medical community is part of a "critical 'first line of defense' in detecting emerging infectious diseases that may affect the food supply or become transmissible threats to human life." The association also notes the importance of the stakeholder process, which this bill establishes.

## **<u>COMMENTS</u>**:

According to CDFA, there is currently a robust collaboration with CDPH. The Animal Health and Food Safety Services Division of CDFA supports the One Health concept and is committed to collaborating with local and national partners to protect California's livestock and public health, ensure a safe, wholesome food supply, and enhance stewardship of the environment" (*https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/OneHealth.html*).

The AHFSS website defines zoonotic diseases as "...diseases and infections that are naturally transmitted between animals and humans. At least 60% of all human pathogens are zoonotic, as well as 75% of recent emerging infectious diseases affecting humans. Pathogens may be bacteria, viruses, fungi, or parasites, and can spread by contact with animals or contaminated environment/objects, by insect or arthropod vectors, or through food."

# **RELATED LEGISLATION:**

<u>SCR 58 (Hurtado)</u>: Proclaims November 3, 2021, as One Health Day, a global campaign that celebrates and brings attention to the need for a One Health approach to address shared health threats at the human-animal-environmental interface (*Chapter 146, Statutes of 2021*).

### **SUPPORT**:

American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals California Animal Welfare Association

## SB 1029 (Hurtado)

Page 4 of 4

California Veterinary Medical Association Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California San Diego Humane Society

# **OPPOSITION**:

None received

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