
THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 453
Author: Hurtado (D)
Amended: 5/20/21
Vote: 27

SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE: 5-0, 3/18/21
AYES: Borgeas, Hurtado, Caballero, Eggman, Glazer

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/7/21
AYES: Leyva, Ochoa Bogh, Cortese, Dahle, Glazer, McGuire, Pan

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/20/21
AYES: Portantino, Bates, Bradford, Jones, Kamlager, Laird, Wieckowski

SUBJECT: Agriculture: Biosecurity and Emerging Infectious Disease Fund

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill (1) creates the Biosecurity and Emerging Infectious Disease Fund; (2) continuously appropriates monies from the General Fund to the Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) for allocation to the California State University Foundation for distribution to the Jordan Agricultural Research Center at California State University, Fresno, for purposes of supporting research on biosecurity and emerging infectious diseases relating to agriculture and mitigating the effects of emerging infectious diseases on meat, poultry, and other agricultural production; and (3) authorizes the Fund to receive monies from federal, state, local, and private sources.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Appropriates monies to the CDFA for emergency detection, investigation, or eradication of agricultural plant or animal pests or diseases and, at the discretion of the Secretary of CDFA, authorizes those moneys to be used for planning and

research involving detection, investigation, eradication, and methods of quarantine compliance for agricultural plant or animal pests or diseases.

- 2) Requires the Secretary to establish and administer a research program to control vertebrate pests that pose a significant threat to the welfare of the state's agricultural economy, infrastructure, and the public.
- 3) Provides for the establishment of the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program to support competitive grants for research on the control of pests and diseases of agricultural importance through alternatives that reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides and petrochemicals and on the production, processing, and distribution of food and fiber in ways that consider the interactions among soil, plants, water, air, animals, tillage, machinery, labor, energy, and transportation to enhance agricultural efficiency, public health, and resource conservation.

This bill:

- 1) Establishes the Biosecurity and Emerging Infectious Disease Fund within the State Treasury.
- 2) States monies be continuously appropriated from the General Fund to CDFA for allocation to the CSU Foundation for distribution to the Jordan Agricultural Research Center at CSU, Fresno, for the establishment of the Biosecurity and Emerging Infectious Disease Fund for the purpose of supporting research on biosecurity and emerging infectious diseases relating to agriculture and mitigating the effects of emerging infectious diseases on meat, poultry, and other agricultural production.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: Yes Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, CDFA would incur minor and absorbable costs.

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/21/21)

Biotechnology Industry Organization

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/21/21)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author:

“The COVID-19 pandemic has shuttered businesses and schools, devastated families, and caught governments around the world unprepared. As of February 2021, it had infected over 110 million people worldwide and killed approximately 2.44 million. Many scientists are quite confident that it came to humans through an animal, specifically a bat. This was not the first dangerous disease that has passed from animals to humans and it will not be the last. The CDC estimates that 3 out of 4 emerging infectious diseases in people come from animals. Currently, there are 1.6 million undiscovered viruses circulating in the animal population, at least half of which have the potential to spread to humans. This is why I introduced SB 453. In the past, once we have conquered regional epidemics or smaller scale pandemics, collectively, we have simply moved on, we have let our focus lapse. We cannot do that this time. We must be prepared. SB 453 lays the groundwork to ensure California and the Nation are ready for the next global pandemic by allocating funds for research on biosecurity and emerging infectious disease. Studying and mapping future diseases, while improving our diagnostics is one way the State can move forward with an eye to future challenges that may already be headed our way.”

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