
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 453
Author: Hurtado (D), et al.
Amended: 7/15/21
Vote: 21

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

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 6/1/21
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Atkins, Bates, Becker, Borgeas, Bradford, Caballero, Cortese, Dahle, Dodd, Durazo, Eggman, Glazer, Gonzalez, Grove, Hertzberg, Hueso, Hurtado, Jones, Kamlager, Laird, Leyva, Limón, McGuire, Min, Newman, Nielsen, Ochoa Bogh, Pan, Portantino, Roth, Rubio, Skinner, Stern, Umberg, Wieckowski, Wiener, Wilk
NO VOTE RECORDED: Melendez

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 8/19/21 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Agriculture: Biosecurity and Emerging Infectious Disease Fund

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill creates the Agricultural Biosecurity Fund (Fund), to be continuously appropriated to the California State University Agricultural Research Institute to establish and administer a grant program for the purpose of supporting research on biosecurity related to agriculture. This bill states that all research grants shall be awarded to campuses of the California State University associated with the California State University Agricultural Research Institute, including, but

not limited to, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo; California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; California State University, Chico; California State University, Fresno; California State University, Humboldt; and California State University, Monterey Bay.

Assembly Amendments clarify the California State University Agricultural Research Institute shall administer the grant program with moneys received in the Agricultural Biosecurity Fund.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Appropriates monies to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (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 shall be continuously appropriated to the California State University Agricultural Research Institute for the purpose of supporting research on biosecurity related to agriculture.

- 3) States all research grants shall be awarded to campuses of the California State University associated with the California State University Agricultural Research Institute, including, but not limited to:
- a) California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.
 - b) California Polytechnic State University, Pomona.
 - c) California State University, Chico.
 - d) California State University, Fresno.
 - e) California State University, Humboldt.
 - f) California State University, Monterey Bay.

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

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, “Absorbable costs to CSU to administer the grant program, if the Agricultural Research Institute (ARI) receives money from the Fund. Although this bill continuously appropriates money from the Fund to the ARI, this bill does not provide any appropriation of money into the Fund needed to administer the grant program.”

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/19/21)

Biotechnology Industry Organization

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/19/21)

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.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 8/19/21

AYES: Aguiar-Curry, Arambula, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Bigelow, Bloom, Boerner Horvath, Bryan, Burke, Calderon, Carrillo, Cervantes, Chau, Chen, Chiu, Choi, Cooley, Cooper, Cunningham, Megan Dahle, Daly, Flora, Fong, Frazier, Friedman, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gipson, Lorena Gonzalez, Gray, Grayson, Jones-Sawyer, Kalra, Kiley, Lackey, Lee, Levine, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, Nguyen, O'Donnell, Patterson, Petrie-Norris, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Reyes, Luz Rivas, Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Salas, Santiago, Seyarto, Smith, Stone, Ting, Valladares, Villapudua, Voepel, Waldron, Ward, Akilah Weber, Wicks, Rendon

NO VOTE RECORDED: Davies, Gabriel, Holden, Irwin, Robert Rivas, Wood

Prepared by: Reichel Everhart / AGRI. / (916) 651-1508
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