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

Bill No: SB 489 **Hearing Date:** 3/18/21
Author: Laird
Version: 2/17/21
Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes
Consultant: Reichel Everhart

Subject: Pest control: Agricultural Pest Control Advisory Committee

SUMMARY:

This bill would increase the public members on the Agricultural Pest Control Advisory Committee within the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) from one to two members.

BACKGROUND AND EXISTING LAW:

The Agricultural Pest Control Advisory Committee within the Department of Pesticide Regulation was created to advise the director in all matters concerning licensing, certification, and regulation of persons and firms licensed or certified for pest control operations. Existing law sets forth the composition of the advisory committee, including one member representing the general public. [*Food and Ag Code 12042*]

PROPOSED LAW:

This bill would increase the number of members representing the general public from one to two.

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:

According to the author:

“SB 489 ensures greater transparency of pesticide use in business, consumer, and commercial affairs. Increasing consumer representation on the Agricultural Pest Control Advisory Committee (APCAC) is vital to empowering consumer voices in the committee’s recommendations to the Director of the Department of Pesticide Regulation.”

“Similarly, in 2008, I introduced the Invasive Pest Planning Act, AB 2763, which aimed to put in place a pest planning process that prevents the kind of public fear and confusion experienced with the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM). With SB 489, transparency about environmental related issues is addressed. The bill will

ensure that the APCAC's board decisions, recommendations, and advisory include diverse perspectives and appropriately represent the public on issues that affect all Californians.”

Consumer Watchdog wrote in support stating an additional public member on the Agricultural Pest Control Advisory Committee would “increase representation of consumer interests, which benefits all Californians.”

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION:

None received.

COMMENTS:

Suggested Amendment: The committee was created to advise the director of the Department of Pesticide Regulation. The director is not referred to as “secretary”, so the author may wish to remove the term “secretary” and replace it with “director” where referenced throughout the bill.

SUPPORT:

Consumer Watchdog

OPPOSITION:

None received

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