
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1042
Author: Ransom (D), et al.
Amended: 8/29/25 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE: 5-0, 7/15/25
AYES: Hurtado, Alvarado-Gil, Cortese, McNerney, Padilla

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 6-0, 8/29/25
AYES: Caballero, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 79-0, 6/2/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: The Cannella Environmental Farming Act of 1995: Managed
Honeybee Health Program

SOURCE: California Fresh Fruit Association

DIGEST: This bill authorizes the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to establish and oversee the Managed Honeybee Health Program. This bill authorizes CDFA, to the extent moneys are available, provide grants to eligible recipients for health intervention projects that enhance the health and well-being of managed honeybees used in pollination services and for projects that indirectly support health interventions through research, extension, and technical assistance. The bill establishes the Managed Honeybee Health Special Fund Subaccount in which non-state, federal, and private funds may be collected and can be deposited.

ANALYSIS:

Existing federal law:

- 1) U.S. Farm Services Agency: Serves all farmers, ranchers, and agricultural partners equitably through the delivery of effective, efficient agricultural programs for all Americans.
- 2) Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP): Offers financial aid to producers who suffer losses from specific adverse conditions not covered by other United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) disaster assistance programs. This includes losses due to disease, certain adverse weather events, and other qualifying conditions.

Existing state law:

- 1) Mandates, via the Apiary Protection Program: California, all beekeepers register their hives through the Apiary Protection Program, using the BeeWhere registration system and charges a scaling fee based on the number of hives registered. Beekeepers use BeeWhere to register hives annually in their home county, notify other counties when they first move bees into those counties, and notify the county agricultural commissioner when they move bees to new locations within the county.
- 2) Prioritizes, via Pollinator Habitat Program (PHP), planning and establishment of native habitats using locally appropriate native plant seed mixes where possible. Pollinators, such as bees, butterflies, and other species, play a critical role in the productivity of many agricultural crops and the health of natural ecosystems. However, pollinator populations are in decline due to various factors, including habitat destruction, pesticide use, disease, and climate change.
- 3) Subjects, via Border Protection Stations (BPS), honeybee shipments entering California to two inspections, a cursory inspection at the border station and a more detailed inspection at the destination. These inspections are necessary because hitchhiking insect and weed pests are often found associated with bee colonies.

This bill:

- 1) States CDFA, in consultation with the Scientific Advisory Panel on Environmental Farming (Panel), may establish and oversee the Managed Honeybee Health Program to enhance the health and well-being of managed honeybees in California and consult with commercial beekeepers, the state

veterinarian, farmers, county agricultural commissioners, professionals, scientists, and representatives of nongovernmental entities to advise the department on the program.

- 2) Defines “socially disadvantaged group” to have the same meaning as defined in Section 512 of the Food and Agricultural Code.
 - a) Food and Agricultural Code Section 512 defines “socially disadvantaged group” to mean a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. These groups include all of the following:
 - i) African Americans.
 - ii) Native Indians.
 - iii) Alaskan Natives.
 - iv) Hispanics.
 - v) Asian Americans.
 - vi) Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.
- 3) Declares:
 - a) Managed honeybees are essential to the health and productivity of California’s agriculture and ecosystems.
 - b) California’s agricultural sector, the largest in the United States, depends on pollination for the successful cultivation of over 90 crops, including almonds, berries, melons, and many fruits and vegetables, which annually contribute billions of dollars to the state’s economy.
 - c) Managed honeybees also play a critical role in sustaining plant populations, supporting biodiversity, and maintaining healthy ecosystems.
 - d) Managed honeybee populations have experienced significant declines due to various factors, including habitat and forage loss, climate change, pests such as the Varroa mite, and diseases.
 - e) The loss of managed honeybees poses a serious threat to food security, biodiversity, and the resilience of ecosystems in California.
 - f) A decline in managed honeybee health negatively impacts California’s economy by reducing crop yields, increasing the costs of pollination services, and diminishing the state’s agricultural competitiveness.
 - g) Healthy managed honeybee populations are necessary for the preservation of ecosystems that provide natural water filtration, carbon storage, and soil stabilization, and contribute to California’s environmental sustainability goals.

- h) California has a longstanding tradition of leadership in environmental stewardship and sustainable agricultural practices. Promoting managed honeybee health aligns with California's goals to combat climate change, protect biodiversity, and advance sustainable agriculture. By prioritizing the health and management of managed honeybees, California can strengthen partnerships between agricultural producers, conservation groups, researchers, and policymakers.
- 4) States it is the intent of the Legislature to prioritize the health of managed honeybees through collaborative efforts, incentives, research and education, and the adoption of practices that support the sustainability of California's agricultural ecosystems.
- 5) Allows, to the extent that moneys are available, CDFA to provide grants to eligible recipients for health intervention projects that enhance the health and well-being of managed honeybees used in pollination services and for projects that indirectly support health interventions through research, extension, and technical assistance.
 - a) Eligible recipients shall include, but are not limited to, in-state commercial beekeepers, academic institutions, and nonprofit organizations.
- 6) States, in addition to criteria developed to address the program priorities, the department may consider, when awarding grants, whether any of the following criteria apply to a project applicant or project:
 - a) The project is located in and benefits a disadvantaged community identified pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code.
 - b) The project applicant is a commercial beekeeper who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group or the project applicant specializes in serving socially disadvantaged groups.
 - c) The project demonstrates potential for replication in other parts of the state.
 - d) The project provides environmental and agronomic cobenefits, such as reduced hive loss and increased honeybee habitat.
- 7) Allows CDFA to collect non-state, federal, and private funds for the purpose of the program to be deposited into the Managed Honeybee Health Special Fund Subaccount, to be created within the Climate Smart Agriculture Account in the Department of Food and Agriculture Fund.

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

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/26/25)

California Fresh Fruit Association (source)
A Voice for Choice Advocacy
Agricultural Council of California
Almond Alliance
American Pistachio Growers
California Chamber of Commerce
California Citrus Mutual
California Farm Bureau
California State Beekeepers Association
Croplife America
Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment
Western Growers Association
Western Tree Nut Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/26/25)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:

According to the author:

“California is one of the nation’s top producers of crops like almonds, strawberries, and other fruits, all of which depend on pollinators to grow successfully. AB 1042 is a crucial bill that helps protect these pollinators, like honeybees, from environmental threats, pests, and other challenges that have already led to the loss of 1.1 million managed beehives. This bill creates a program to support beekeepers in safeguarding their colonies, which is vital for ensuring that California’s \$11 billion worth of crops continue to thrive with healthy honeybee populations.”

The California Fresh Fruit Association, sponsor of the bill, along with other stakeholders write in a coalition letter:

“A thriving beekeeping industry is essential to sustaining California’s agricultural economy. However, recent reports of high bee mortality rates are deeply concerning. From June 2024 to February 2025, commercial beekeepers nationwide reported an average loss of 62% of their colonies, citing factors such as extreme weather, pests, diseases,

pathogens, poor nutrition, ineffective pest management, and bee theft. Deadly diseases like American foulbrood and colony collapse disorder, combined with the invasive Varroa mite, pose significant threats to hive health. These losses not only have catastrophic financial impacts on beekeepers, who already operate on thin margins, but also disrupt the broader pollination network, affecting breeders, bee brokers, and farmers. While the state has invested in pollinator-friendly initiatives, it has yet to directly support beekeepers and managed honeybee health. AB 1042 seeks to fill this gap by establishing the Managed Honeybee Health Program, which would provide grants and resources to commercial beekeepers and promote honeybee health. Additional funding could also be used for industry-guided research, technical assistance, and education.”

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION:

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 79-0, 6/2/25

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

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