

GOVERNOR'S VETO
AB 1042 (Ransom)
As Enrolled September 8, 2025
2/3 vote

SUMMARY

This bill would allow the California Department of Food and Agricultural (CDFA), to establish and oversee the Managed Honeybee Health Program (MHHP) under the administration of for the purpose of enhancing the health and well-being of managed honeybees in California that are necessary to support the ecological and economic viability of California agriculture.

Senate Amendments:

- 1) Define "socially disadvantaged group," as specified.
- 2) Make specified changes to the priorities and criteria CDFA would use in awarding grants.

Governor's Veto Message

This bill would allow the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to establish the Managed Honeybee Health Program to fund health interventions for managed honeybees according to priorities set by CDFA.

I appreciate the author's interest in protecting our honeybee population, but this bill would create an unfunded grant program and, therefore, should be considered as part of the annual budget process.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

COMMENTS

Honeybees play a crucial role in the production of many fruit, tree nut and vegetable crops, yet their natural habitats often do not coincide with the locations of agricultural crops that require pollination services. This creates a significant need for movement of managed honeybee colonies, especially during critical pollination periods. Increasing almond production in California has led to the creation of the largest market for pollination services in the world. Honeybees play an essential role in almond production because most almond varieties require cross-pollination with pollen from a different variety.

Recent reports have noted that bee mortality rates are at all-time high. Honeybees may be dying at an unprecedented rate this winter, with more than 1.1 million colonies lost, according to a survey of U.S. beekeepers by the nonprofit organization Project Apis m. Commercial beekeepers in California have reported an average loss of 62%, with a host of reasons, weather, pests, diseases, pathogens, nutrition, pest management, and bee theft. Similar loss of bees in Florida in 2023 resulted in nearly a \$4.28 billion reduction in the state's farm gate revenue. The impacts of

these losses leave commercial beekeepers at significant financial losses, who already operate on razor thin margins, and farmers that depend upon pollination experience significant losses, as well.

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. [This bill] 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.

Arguments in Support

While there have been incentive programs developed and funded to help pollinators generally, to date, there is no state program specifically developed to help commercial beekeepers. This bill would establish the Managed Honeybee Health Program at the CDFA. Under the program, CDFA can administer grants, provide technical assistance, education, outreach and invest in research that assists the commercial beekeeping industry and by extension, the farm community that depends upon pollination services. Grants will be provided for health interventions that are intended to improve bee health—that could include planting bee friendly cover crop for forage, purchasing supplemental feed or water, rental assistance for beehive placement, purchasing hive health monitoring equipment or enrollment in trainings, purchasing probiotics, and assisting in pest and disease management. These practices can have both benefits for beekeepers and the broader ecosystem. An advisory committee consisting of beekeepers, the State Veterinarian, a County Agricultural Commissioner, and farmers will be assembled to assist in identifying practices and guiding the program.

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

- 1) Should CDFA elect to utilize the authority granted by this bill, the bill would likely result in ongoing annual General Fund costs to CDFA of an unknown amount, likely in the low hundreds of thousands of dollars, to hire staff to establish and oversee the MHHP, manage contracts for incentives and grants, and complete other tasks.
- 2) Ongoing annual cost pressure (non-state, federal, and private funds) of an unknown but significant amount, likely in the hundreds of thousands to low millions of dollars, for CDFA to provide incentives and grants to eligible recipients for health intervention projects that enhance the health and well-being of managed honeybees used in pollination services (Managed Honeybee Health Special Fund Subaccount).
- 3) CDFA notes it has historically used a percentage of funding appropriated for grants to administer the funds, and that it would likely be able to implement this bill if legislation appropriating the funds explicitly authorizes the department to use up to 8% of the funds on administrative costs.

VOTES**ASM AGRICULTURE: 8-0-0**

YES: Soria, Alanis, Aguiar-Curry, Connolly, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Irwin, Ransom

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-0-4

YES: Wicks, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Elhawary, Fong, Mark González, Hart, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache

ABS, ABST OR NV: Sanchez, Dixon, Ta, Tangipa

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 79-0-0

YES: 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

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0-1

YES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNeerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ABS, ABST OR NV: Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0-1

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, 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

ABS, ABST OR NV: Ahrens

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