

THIRD READING

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Bill No: AB 1848  
Author: Ransom (D)  
Introduced: 8/21/26 in Senate  
Vote: 27

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SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE: 4-0, 6/16/26  
AYES: Caballero, Alvarado-Gil, McNerney, Padilla  
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ashby

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 66-1, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

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**SUBJECT:** California Seed Law: annual registration fee

**SOURCE:** Author

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**DIGEST:** This bill clarifies the Seed Advisory Board's role, increases the annual registration for any person who sells seed in California from \$40 to \$100 and authorizes the Secretary, after consulting with the Seed Advisory Board, to annually increase the fee by up to \$50, but not to exceed \$300 total, for each fiscal year or portion of a fiscal year beginning July 1.

*Senate Floor Amendments* of 8/21/26 1) clarify the Seed Advisory Board (the Board) shall advise the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and make recommendations on seed laws and regulations, enforcement, laboratory diagnostics, annual program budgets, registration fees, and dollar volume assessments; and 2) increase the annual registration fee for persons selling seed in California from \$40 to \$100 and authorizes the Secretary, after consulting with the Board, to increase the fee annually by up to \$50, subject to a maximum of \$300, beginning July 1 of each fiscal year.

**ANALYSIS:**

Existing federal law establishes the Federal Seed Act which regulates agricultural and vegetable seed shipped in interstate commerce. It requires that seed shipments between states are labeled with certain quality information necessary for seed buyers to make informed choices. The United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service provides regulatory oversight and enforcement of the Federal Seed Act and its related regulations.

Existing state law:

- 1) Establishes the California Seed Law (CSL) which regulates seed sold in California and requires every labeler of agricultural or vegetable seed offered for sale in this state or any persons who sell seed in this state, as provided, to annually register with CDFA to obtain authorization to sell the seed, except as provided (Food and Agricultural Code Section 52281-52289).
- 2) Establishes the Seed Advisory Board to make recommendations on all matters pertaining to the California Seed Law and seed inspection regulations, the enforcement program, and the program's *budget* (Food and Agricultural Code Section 52291-52298).
- 3) Requires each application for annual registration to be accompanied by a payment of a \$40 fee for each fiscal year or portion of a fiscal year beginning on July 1 (Food and Agricultural Code Section 52352).

This bill:

- 1) Clarifies the Seed Advisory Board's role to advise the secretary of CDFA and make recommendations on specified matters, including, but not limited to, seed law and regulations, enforcement, seed laboratory diagnostics, and annual program budgets, registration fees, and dollar volume assessments, which, when combined, shall provide adequate funds to support the program.
- 2) Increases the annual registration fee for persons selling seed in California from \$40 to \$100.
- 3) Authorizes the Secretary, after consulting with the Board, to increase the fee annually by up to \$50, subject to a maximum of \$300, beginning July 1 of each fiscal year.

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

**SUPPORT:** (Verified 8/21/26)

California Association of Wheat Growers  
California Seed Association

**OPPOSITION:** (Verified 8/21/26)

None received

**ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:** According to the author:

“AB 1848 supports the work of the California Department of Food and Agriculture in inspecting seed products, testing germination and purity, and preventing mislabeled or contaminated seeds from entering the market. California Seed Law requires seed companies to register with CDFA and pay a fee to cover costs associated with the inspection and monitoring program. The fee, which has not been increased since its establishment in 1973, is no longer adequate and must be adjusted to sustain this important program.. The seed monitoring and inspection programs funded by these fees protect farmers from costly crop failures, promote fair competition among seed sellers, and maintain the reliability of California’s agricultural supply chain. California’s agriculture is a cornerstone of the international food marketplace, and protecting our breadbasket is absolutely essential. AB 1848 helps CDFA continue to fund their monitoring and protection programs to keep our agricultural sector healthy for years to come.”

**ASSEMBLY FLOOR:** 66-1, 5/21/26

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

NOES: DeMaio

NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Bains, Chen, Gallagher, Garcia, Hoover,  
Lackey, Muratsuchi, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Sanchez, Ta, Wilson

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