

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1848 (Ransom)

As Amended August 21, 2026

2/3 vote

SUMMARY

This bill would authorize the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), after consultation with the Seed Advisory Board (Board), to increase the annual registration for any person who sells seed in California from \$40 to \$100. Beginning January 1, 2028, the bill would also authorize 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 Amendments

Set the registration fee at \$100, and, after January 1, 2028, authorize the Secretary to raise the fee, provided they have consulted with the Board. Moreover, the amendments clarify that the Secretary shall set the registration fee and the assessment fee at a level sufficient to operate the respective programs, and that the Board shall make corresponding recommendations.

COMMENTS

Senate Amendments will expedite raising the fee and collection of funds necessary to meet the requirements of the program. A comprehensive analysis of CDFA Seed Services was conducted in November of 2016 and identified several efficiencies that could be implemented but also identified the need for additional staff and demonstrated that California (\$40) has one of the lowest registration fees in the nation (\$10 -\$300).¹

According to the Author

"[This bill] 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."

Arguments in Support

The California Seed Association, the sponsors of the bill, wrote that, "AB 1848 would help provide the resources needed to administer and enforce California's seed law. The current annual registration fee was established in 1973 and has not been increased since. \$40. The bill provides a one-time increase to \$100, would allow the Secretary, after consulting with the Seed Advisory Board, to increase that fee annually to a maximum not to exceed \$300. This measured, tiered approach provides a reasonable path for future adjustments while preserving oversight and industry input."

¹ Seed Services Business Needs Analysis Final Report_11-17-16
[https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/pe/nsc/docs/seed/Seed_Services_BNA_Final_11-17-16.pdf]

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8, this bill would have negligible state costs.

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

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

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 14-0-1

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Ta

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 66-1-13

YES: 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

NO: DeMaio

ABS, ABST OR NV: Arambula, Bains, Chen, Gallagher, Garcia, Hoover, Lackey, Muratsuchi, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Sanchez, Ta, Wilson

UPDATED

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