

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING

AB 230 (Ransom)

As Amended January 5, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

This bill would extend the Pierce's Disease Control (PDC) Program to March 1, 2036. Currently the program will end on March 1, 2031.

Major Provisions

Extends the PDC Program to March 1, 2036. Currently, the program will end on March 1, 2031.

COMMENTS

In the late 1990s, PD threatened to cause damage to grapes due to the arrival of the glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS). GWSS carries the bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa*, which causes Pierce's Disease (PD) in grapes, almonds, oleander, and citrus fruits. When a plant develops PD, its ability to draw in moisture is hindered and the plant will either die or become unproductive.

In response, the Legislature enacted a legislative package that created the advisory task force on PD issues in 1999. In 2001, the program was created by AB 1394 (Wiggins), Chapter 103, Statutes of 2001, to fight the spread and find solutions for PD and GWSS. SB 1650 (Chesbro), Chapter 485, Statutes of 2004, made technical and substantive changes to the program, and added a referendum process for the continuance of the program and its related assessments, to be approved by a majority of the participants. The program is funded from federal and industry funds, and grape grower's assessments.

California's wine industry is a notable economic driver in California, creating jobs, encouraging tourism, and ensuring the preservation of agricultural land. Winegrapes are susceptible to a range of diseases that are deadly to the vines. One of the most prominent of these diseases is PD, carried between plants by GWSS.

GWSS are insects that hop between leaves, spreading disease between plants upon which they feed. Sharpshooters are native to North America, like the blue-green sharpshooter—which is native to Sonoma County—and the GWSS—which is native to northern Mexico and the southeastern United States. GWSS spread from Southern California up the state in the late 1980s, and is a vector to many diseases, including PD.

According to the Author

According to the author, by extending the sunset date of this program, California grape growers and wineries will continue to be able to use the research and monitoring to defend themselves against Pierce's Disease and the glassy-winged sharpshooter as they have been since 2001. This is especially the case for rural and small wine producers along the Central Coast.

Arguments in Support

According to supporters, since the 1990s, PD and the GWSS have been one of the most invasive and deadly pests for winegrape vines. The disease has caused millions upon millions of damages throughout the state. In response, the legislature created the Pierce's Disease and Glassy-Winged

Sharpshooter Board. This bill will allow the wine industry, a notable economic driver in California, to continue to research, control, contain, and inspect to prevent the spread of PD.

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

Ongoing annual costs to CDFA in the range of \$20 million and \$26 million to continue to administer the PCDP (Pierce's Disease Management Account.) These costs are almost entirely covered by federal funds and industry assessments. However, on occasion, the PDCP has received limited General Fund support. CDFA would incur an additional one-time cost in the tens of thousands of dollars to conduct the board extension referendum, also covered by industry assessments.

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

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

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Stefani, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Bauer-Kahan, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

UPDATED

VERSION: January 5, 2026

CONSULTANT: Nicole Willis / AGRI. / (916) 319-2084

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