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**SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**  
**Senator Anna Caballero, Chair**  
**2025 - 2026 Regular**

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**Bill No:** AB 230 **Hearing Date:** 6/16/26  
**Author:** Ransom  
**Version:** 1/5/26  
**Urgency:** No **Fiscal:** Yes  
**Consultant:** Reichel Everhart

**Subject:** Pest control: Pierce's disease

**SUMMARY:**

This bill would extend the Pierce's Disease Control Program within the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), and the Pierce's Disease Management Account within the Department of Food and Agriculture Fund indefinitely. The bill would state the provisions of this bill will become inoperative on a specified date if the Secretary of CDFA finds that a favorable vote in a referendum has not been given for the continued implementation of the provisions regarding the Winegrape Pest and Disease Prevention Board. The bill also would change the name of the Pierce's Disease and Glassy Winged Sharpshooter Board to the Winegrape Pest and Disease Prevention Board.

**BACKGROUND AND EXISTING LAW:**

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the Pierce's Disease Control Program (PDCP) within the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). PDCP was established to slow the spread of the glassy-winged sharpshooter and minimize the impact of Pierce's Disease in California (*Food and Agricultural Code Section 6046*).
- 2) Establishes the Pierce's Disease Management Account to allow certain money to be used to combat Pierce's disease and its vectors.
- 3) States the PDCP and the Pierce's Disease Management Account shall become inoperative on March 1, 2031, and as of January 1, 2032, is repealed unless a later enacted statute that is enacted before January 1, 2032, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.
- 4) Creates the Pierce's Disease and Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board to help further the interests of the industry concerned. Existing law prescribes the

functions and repeals these provisions on March 1, 2031 (*Food and Agricultural Code Section 6047.3*).

- 5) Establishes that producers, handlers, or processors who are directly affected by a marketing order may vote under the California Marketing Act using a referendum method.
  - a. States approval of a referendum requires a specified percentage of the number of producers or handlers and a specified percentage of the volume of the commodity produced or handled during a given period.
  - b. Under the referendum procedure, a 30-day voting period is allowed with an extension not to exceed 15 days<sup>1</sup>.

### **PROPOSED LAW:**

This bill:

- 1) Changes the name of the Pierce's Disease and Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter Board to the Winegrape Pest and Disease Prevention Board.
- 2) Extends the operation of the PDCP and the Pierce's Disease Management Account within CDFA indefinitely, except that the bill would make these provisions inoperative on a specified date if the Secretary finds that a favorable vote in a referendum has not been given for the continued implementation of the provisions regarding the Winegrape Pest and Disease Prevention Board.
- 3) States no later than June 30, 2030, the Secretary shall hold one or more public hearings to determine whether the operation of this article should be continued. Thereafter, the Secretary shall conduct the review process as necessary, but not less frequent than once every five years.
- 4) States if the Secretary finds a substantial question of opposition does not exist among affected producers under this article, the operation of this article shall continue in effect without a referendum.
- 5) States if the Secretary finds after a hearing that a substantial question of opposition exists among affected producers under this article regarding whether the operation of this article should be continued, the Secretary shall submit the article for approval using the following voting procedures set forth in this section and Sections 6047.22 to 6047.27, inclusive:
  - a. If the secretary determines the requirement for referendum has been met, the secretary shall establish a list of persons eligible to vote on the continued implementation of this article.
  - b. As used in this subdivision, "substantial question of opposition" means opposition to the substance of the petition among currently

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/mkt/mkt/refstats/>

affected producers and is not intended to mean a particular number of producers.

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

“California produces some of the highest quality winegrapes in the world, supporting thousands of jobs, local communities, and a globally recognized industry. To protect the health of winegrapes across California, the Pierce’s Disease Control Program and the Pierce’s Disease/Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board have helped protect California vineyards from devastating pests and diseases, preserving both growers’ livelihoods and the state’s agricultural heritage. The board and program have expanded to include far more than Pierce’s Disease prevention since their inception.

These programs are a shining example of the success of a strong public-private partnership between the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the winegrape producers who help guide and support these prevention and response efforts. AB 230 reaffirms California’s commitment to safeguarding winegrapes from invasive pests and emerging threats to winegrape health by renaming the board the Winegrape Pest and Disease Prevention Board, a title that better reflects its broad mission and responsibilities. The bill also ensures the continued operation of these successful programs by removing the sunset date, providing the stability and long-term certainty needed to protect California vineyards for generations to come.”

**ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION:**

None received.

**COMMENTS:**

Supporters of the bill have stated continuing the Program and the Board would allow the wine industry, a notable economic driver in California, to continue to research, control, contain, and inspect with the goal of protecting California vineyards from pests and disease.

Highlighting the need for this, between April 21 and May 21 of this year, invasive glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS) insects were found on shipments of

grapevines sold at select Costco locations in Northern California between April 21 and May 21.

GWSS is an invasive insect pest that spreads the bacterium that causes Pierce's disease, a fatal grapevine disease that threatens California vineyards. The pest can also damage citrus trees, landscape plants and other crops. Early detection and rapid response are critical to preventing the pest from spreading further.

CDFA has made attempts to contact those who had purchased a grapevine(s) from Costco during that timeframe stating if they had purchased a grapevine from Costco in an affected county during that timeframe, contact your local County Agricultural Commissioner's Office right away.

The affected counties include:

Alameda County or call 510-670-5232  
Butte County or call 530-552-4100  
Contra Costa County or call 925-608-6600  
Fresno County or call 559-600-7510  
Humboldt County or call 707-441-5260  
Kings County or call 559-852-2830  
Marin County or call 415-473-6700  
Mendocino County or call 707-234-6830  
Merced County or call 209-385-7431  
Monterey County or call 831-759-7325  
Napa County or call 707-253-4357  
Placer County or call 530-889-7372  
Sacramento County or call 916-875-6603  
San Joaquin County or call 209-953-6000  
San Mateo County or call 650-363-4700  
Santa Clara County or call 408-918-4600  
Santa Cruz County or call 831-763-8080  
Shasta County or call 530-224-4949  
Solano County or call 707-784-1310  
Sonoma County or call 707-565-2371  
Stanislaus County or call 209-525-4730  
Tulare County or call 559-684-3350  
Yolo County or call 530-666-8140  
Yuba County or call 530-749-5400

**RELATED LEGISLATION:**

AB 1861 (Chapter 197, Statutes of 2024): Extended the Pierce’s Disease Control Program to March 1, 2031 and removes the requirement that the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) submit, on a bi-annual basis, a report to the Legislature and instead requires the report to be publicly available on CDFA’s website on or before December 31<sup>st</sup> each year.

SB 449 (Chapter 371, Statutes of 2019): Extended the sunset date for the Pierce’s Disease Control Program (PDCP) within the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to March 1, 2026.

AB1642 (Chapter 231, Statutes of 2014): This bill extends sunset dates for provisions relating to Pierce’s Disease and the glassy-winged sharpshooter.

**PRIOR ACTIONS:**

Assembly Floor:	76 - 0
Assembly Appropriations Committee:	15 - 0
Assembly Agriculture Committee:	8 - 0

**SUPPORT:**

California Association of Winegrape Growers  
Family Winemakers of California  
Wine Institute

-- END --