

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 2326 (Committee on Agriculture)

As Amended August 13, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

This bill would make specified changes to the Broomrape Program, and extend the Program by 2 years, until July 1, 2030.

Senate Amendments

Senate Amendments make changes to the Weed Management and Broomrape Program at the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).

With respect to the Weed Management Program, the amendments first specify that only Weed Management Areas (WMAs) are eligible to receive the 60% of the Fund that is set aside for the control and abatement of noxious and invasive weeds. Second, they require these WMAs to submit weed management plans to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) that meet specified criteria such as reducing fire hazards, protecting biodiversity, increasing profitability of crop and range land and increasing water supply and flow. Third, regarding the 20 percent of the funds available for research, planning and outreach, they redefine who is eligible to receive those funds by including County Agricultural Commissioners (CACs), Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) or other entity chosen by the WMA as its fiscal agent. Fourth, they raise from 10% to 25%, the maximum award that can be given to any one WMA and makes clear that a given geographic region may be part of only one WMA.

The amendments pertaining to the Broomrape Program allow the Secretary of CDFA to add additional crops to the Broomrape Program if those crops are impacted by Broomrape. Once added to the program, farmers of that crop would be required to pay an assessment and are allowed representation on the Broomrape Board.

COMMENTS

Weed Management Areas work with landowners and stakeholders in a given geographic region to coordinate Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies. During the program's infancy, the areas under WMAs and the entities working on the issues were more dispersed and smaller than they are today. As it has matured, the capabilities of WMAs have increased and the priorities and roles of CACs have shifted away from weed management and towards exterior exclusion, pesticide regulation and, as the retail environment has grown, more weights and measures functions. These amendments are intended to respond to that shift.

The Broomrape began as a program targeting processing tomato fields. In addition to affecting yields, this bioinvader also siphoned water needed for irrigation. There are other commodities impacted by Broomrape but those commodities are not able to avail themselves of the benefits of the Broomrape program. These amendments allow the Secretary to address that problem by expanding the Broomrape assessment and Board representation to include additional crops specified by the Secretary.

According to the Author

"[This bill] is necessary to modernize the Weed Management Program at CDFA and ensure that the dollars we spend on abatement and research are used efficiently. In addition, allowing the Secretary to include additional crops under the Broomrape program will ensure that those crops can benefit from that program and Broomrape is not allowed to proliferate."

Arguments in Support

None on File.

Arguments in Opposition

None on File.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Committee on Appropriations, CDFA would incur ongoing annual costs in the hundreds of thousands of dollars to continue operating the Broomrape Program until July 1, 2030 (Broomrape Management Account).

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

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

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0

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

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0-2

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, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, 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: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

UPDATED

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