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

Bill No: AB 2685 **Hearing Date:** 6/30/26
Author: Committee on Agriculture
Version: 6/2/26
Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes
Consultant: Reichel Everhart

Subject: Food and agriculture: omnibus bill

SUMMARY:

This bill would require the secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to make public the report on the marketing of processing strawberries on the Department's internet website, rather than file the report with the Legislature.

This bill would also authorize the California Walnut Commission to recommend to the secretary the adoption of walnut quality standards and product labeling requirements and allow the secretary, at the beginning of the marketing season next succeeding the date of adoption, to implement these quality standards and product labeling requirements recommended by the commission, in accordance with the California Marketing Act of 1937, unless otherwise provided.

The bill would authorize the commission to engage in any activity related to walnuts that is authorized pursuant to the California Marketing Act of 1937 and would require the commission, if it engages in such an activity, to act in accordance with the procedures specified in that act, unless otherwise provided.

The bill would prohibit the commission from engaging in such an activity until the beginning of the marketing season next succeeding the date on which the commission publicly announces its intent to engage in the activity. The bill would require the commission to serve as the advisory body to the secretary on these matters.

BACKGROUND AND EXISTING LAW:

Existing law:

- 1) Requires CDFA, on or before the last day of each year in which a marketing order exclusively affecting processing strawberries is in effect, to prepare and file with the Legislature a written report of the operations of this chapter and shall make recommendations regarding its various provisions. Each

report and recommendation shall be based on determinations made by the secretary as a result of the annual review specified in Section 63125. (*Food and Agricultural Code section 63126*).

- 2) Establishes the California Walnut Commission for the promotion of the sale of walnuts by brand and generic advertising and other promotional means and educate and instruct the wholesale and retail trade in domestic and foreign markets with respect to proper methods of handling *walnuts* (*Food and Agricultural Code Section 77001*).
- 3) Establishes the California Marketing Act of 1937 which governs the marketing of commodities in California (*Food and Agricultural Code Section 58601*).

PROPOSED LAW:

This bill:

- 1) Requires the Secretary of CDFAs to make the report to the Legislature on the marketing of processing strawberries publicly available on CDFAs website rather than file the report with the Legislature.
- 2) Authorizes the Walnut Commission to recommend to the Secretary the adoption of walnut quality standards and product labeling requirements.
 - a. Requires the standards and product labeling requirements be in accordance with the procedures specified in the California Marketing Act of 1937.
- 3) Prohibits the Secretary from implementing any adopted quality standards or labeling requirements until the beginning of the marketing season next succeeding the date of adoption.

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author:

“This bill will help streamline the annual strawberry report, make the report available to a wider range of constituents.”

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION:

None received

PRIOR ACTIONS:

Assembly Floor:	68 - 0
Assembly Appropriations Committee:	14 - 0
Assembly Agriculture Committee:	8 - 0

SUPPORT:

None received

OPPOSITION:

None received

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