
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 524 (Wilson) - Farmland Access and Conservation for Thriving Communities Act

Version: August 18, 2025

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 29, 2025

Policy Vote: N.R. & W. 6 - 1, AGRI. 4 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Ashley Ames

Bill Summary: This bill would establish the Farmland Access and Conservation for Thriving Communities Program to provide financial and technical assistance to support land acquisition and protection by providing financial assistance to nonprofit organizations, public agencies, farmer cooperatives, tribal governments and tribal entities, agricultural land trusts, and community land trusts, and providing long-term leases to beginning farmers or ranchers or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranches.

***** **ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE** *****

The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on August 29, 2025

Fiscal Impact:

- The Department of Conservation (DOC) notes that the fiscal impact would be dependent on the amount of funding allocated to the program. Assuming an appropriation of \$20 million in local assistance for the purposes of this bill, DOC estimates ongoing costs of \$537,267 in the first year and \$500,514 annually thereafter (General Fund, Proposition 4 bond funds, or other special fund) for state operations costs of standing up a new program. DOC notes that it may require additional resources to implement and manage the program.
- The Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) estimates limited-term costs of approximately \$525,000 per year for two years (General Fund, Proposition 4 bond funds, or other special fund) for staffing, potential outside facilitator costs, and meeting facilitation costs to support the Task Force for the two years it anticipates the work would take to complete.
- Ongoing cost pressures of an unknown but significant amount, likely in the tens of millions of dollars (General Fund, Proposition 4 bond funds, or other special fund) to provide funding for the new program that would be created by this bill.

Committee Amendments: These amendments would make the provisions of the bill contingent upon an appropriation.

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