Date of Hearing: June 8, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
Isaac G. Bryan, Chair
SJR 5 (Becker) – As Amended August 19, 2025

SENATE VOTE: 36-0

SUBJECT: Enteric methane reduction solutions: cattle industries

SUMMARY: States California's commitment to advancing innovative solutions that reduce enteric methane emissions while preserving the economic sustainability of California's cattle industries.

EXISTING LAW:

1) Requires the Air Resources Board (ARB) to implement a comprehensive short-lived climate pollutant (SLCP) strategy to achieve, among other goals, a reduction in the statewide emissions of methane by 40% below 2013 levels by 2030. (Health and Safety Code (HSC) 39730.5)

2) Requires ARB, in consultation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), to adopt regulations to reduce methane emissions from livestock and dairy operations by up to 40% below the dairy and livestock sectors' 2013 levels by 2030. (HSC 39730.7)

3) Specifies that enteric methane emissions reductions be achieved only through incentive-based mechanisms until ARB, in consultation with CDFA, determines that a cost-effective and scientifically proven method of reducing enteric emissions is available and that adoption of the enteric emissions reduction method would not damage animal health, public health, or consumer acceptance. (HSC 39730.7)

THIS RESOLUTION:

1) Describes enteric methane emissions from livestock, the variety of solutions that are under consideration for addressing them, and the challenges associated with implementing those solutions.

2) Describes the potential impacts and considerations associated with marketing and selling cattle products produced using enteric methane reduction solutions.

3) States that California remains committed to advancing innovative solutions in enteric methane emission reduction and encouraging enteric methane emission reduction solutions, including consideration of voluntary incentives.

4) Resolves that the Legislature remains committed to advancing innovative solutions that reduce enteric methane emissions while preserving the economic stability of California's cattle industries, including consideration of the voluntary use of feed additives designed to reduce enteric methane emissions, as part of a broader strategy that thoughtfully balances

environmental progress with market viability and consumer confidence.

5) Resolves that the Legislature and the State of California urge the United States Congress to explore advancing innovative solutions in enteric methane emission reduction, including consideration of the voluntary use of feed additives designed to reduce enteric methane emissions, as part of a broader strategy that thoughtfully balances environmental progress with market viability and consumer confidence.

6) Resolves that the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the Governor, the Secretary of Food and Agriculture, the Chair of the ARB, the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Food and Drug Administration, other relevant stakeholders, the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

FISCAL EFFECT: Nonfiscal

COMMENTS:

1) **Background**. SB 1383 (Lara), Chapter 395, Statutes of 2016, requires ARB to approve and implement the comprehensive SLCP strategy to achieve, from 2013 levels, a 40% reduction in methane, a 40% reduction in hydrofluorocarbons, and a 50% reduction in anthropogenic black carbon, by 2030. SB 1383 establishes specific procedures to regulate dairy sources of methane. Specifically, regulations to reduce methane emissions from dairy and livestock manure management operations are subject to the following conditions:

    - Reductions are limited to 40% below 2013 levels by 2030;
    - Requires emission reduction regulations to be implemented on or after 2024;
    - ARB must first complete specified steps, including stakeholder consultation, public meetings, and research;
    - ARB must determine the regulations are technologically feasible, economically feasible, cost-effective, and minimize and mitigate potential leakage;
    - Requires ARB to analyze progress toward the targets and authorizes ARB to reduce the 40% by 2030 goal if the analysis determines that progress has not been made due to insufficient funding, technical or market barriers;
    - Requires ARB and the Public Utilities Commission to establish energy infrastructure development and procurement policies for dairy biomethane projects, including directing gas utilities to implement at least five dairy biomethane pilot projects; and
    - Enteric emission reductions shall be achieved only through incentive-based mechanisms until ARB determines that a cost-effective, considering the impact on animal productivity, scientifically proven means of reducing enteric emissions is available and that adoption of the enteric emissions reduction method would not damage animal health, public health, or consumer acceptance.

Dairies and livestock are responsible for over half of California's methane emissions. Dairy and livestock methane emissions originate from two primary sources, manure management and enteric fermentation. Potential dairy and livestock manure and enteric emissions reduction technologies offer longer-term potential for additional greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions.

CDFA convened the Manure Recycling and Innovative Products Task Force (MRIP) in 2021 to develop recommendations on how to capture and enhance the value of dairy manure while supporting healthy soils, protecting water quality, and reducing GHG emissions from agricultural sources. MRIP released its final report in December 2022, which focused on recommendations for strategies for manure management. Conventional strategies were considered to reduce and better use nitrogen surplus with technology and equipment already widely available in the commercial market. Compost strategies were considered to determine how the nitrogen surplus could be used by expanding composting of surplus manure and examining the permitting requirements and likely environmental outcomes of increasing dairy compost production, export, and use in non-dairy agriculture or other uses. Denitrification and treatment strategies were discussed to facilitate the removal or conversion of nitrogen in manure or manure effluent through physical, chemical, or biological processes that primarily convert reactive nitrogen to stable nitrogen gas. Finally, nitrogen capture was evaluated to help address nitrogen surplus on dairies by capturing and deconcentrating nutrients in a form that can be easily transported and sold for use as crop nutrients.

Enteric methane emissions can be reduced through genetic selection, diet modification, and feed additives. Of these, feed additives offer the greatest potential for sector-wide methane emissions reductions because of how quickly they can reduce methane emissions. In contrast, strategies like diet modifications, feed efficiency improvements, and selective breeding require a longer timeframe to achieve significant emissions reductions. Unlike manure management strategies, these strategies can be implemented at existing operations with little to no need to modify facility design and without significant upfront capital requirements or changes to land use. This makes these strategies potentially attractive for dairy and livestock operations, especially rented or leased operations.

ARB calculates that methane emissions reductions from enteric fermentation present an opportunity to achieve significant methane emissions reductions, potentially at a cost of approximately $50 per metric ton on a carbon dioxide equivalent basis. This is far lower than most technological carbon dioxide removal methods, which typically range from $200 to $2,000 per ton of carbon dioxide.

2) **Author's statement**:

> Enteric Methane produced by cattle is a significant contributor to our climate challenge, and it demands innovative solutions. This resolution strikes an important balance. Recognizing the reality of climate change and the need to reduce enteric methane emissions, while acknowledging that solutions must be economically viable for our agricultural producers. This resolution is California's commitment to innovative solutions that support sustainable agriculture practices

while urging the United States Congress to explore reducing enteric methane emissions.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Climate and Agriculture Network
Western United Dairies

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Elizabeth MacMillan / NAT. RES. /