

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the General Government Appropriations Committee

BILL: PCS/SB 1810

INTRODUCER: General Government Appropriations Committee and Senator Alexander

SUBJECT: Agricultural Emergency Eradication Trust Fund

DATE: March 28, 2008 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Blizzard/Matthews	DeLoach	GA	Pre-meeting
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill expands the use of funds in the Agricultural Emergency Eradication Trust Fund within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The bill provides that the revenue in the trust fund may be made available for the promotion, advancement, and protection of agriculture in this state, including maintaining or increasing market share and the suppression or eradication of wildfire, animal or plant disease, insect infestation, and plants or pests that pose a threat to agriculture. The bill removes the provision that the Commissioner of Agriculture must certify that an agricultural emergency exists in order to for funds to be appropriated from the Agricultural Emergency Eradication Trust Fund.

The bill substantially amends section 570.191, Florida Statutes.

The bill repeals section 570.1911, Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Section 570.191, F.S., creates the Agricultural Emergency Eradication Trust Fund within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The trust fund receives 0.65 percent of the proceeds levied on motor fuel tax as authorized in s. 206.41, F.S. The trust fund currently serves as a repository of revenues to support agriculture emergencies including the Citrus Health Response Program and the Sterile Mediterranean Fly Release Program. In addition, the Office of Agriculture Emergency is funded from the Agricultural Emergency Eradication Trust Fund. Revenues in the trust fund may be made available upon certification by the Commissioner of Agriculture that an agriculture emergency exists. An “agriculture emergency” is defined as an animal or plant disease, insect infestation, or plant or pest endangering or threatening the

horticultural, aquacultural, or other agricultural interest in this state. The commissioner must notify the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives when an agricultural emergency exists and when funds from the Agricultural Emergency Eradication Trust Fund will be used. Revenues deposited into the Agriculture Emergency Eradication Trust Fund in Fiscal Year 2007-2008 are approximately \$10 million.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 amends s. 570.191, F.S., to provide that funds may be made available for the promotion, advancement, and protection of agriculture in this state, including maintaining or increasing market share and the suppression or eradication of wildfire, animal or plant disease, insect infestation, and plants or pests that pose a threat to agriculture.

Section 2 repeals s. 570.1911, F.S., to remove the requirement that notice be given to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives when funds in this trust fund are to be used for a certified agricultural emergency.

Section 3 provides that this act shall take effect July 1, 2008.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

The public will benefit from the department's ability to protect and promote agriculture in Florida.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill expands the use of the trust fund to enable the department to fund additional programs. Funds may be made available for the promotion, advancement, and protection

of agriculture in this state, including maintaining or increasing market share and suppressing or eradicating wildfire, animal or plant disease, and insect infestation.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

The bill amends s. 570.191, F.S., to provide that funds may be made available for the promotion, advancement, and protection of agriculture in this state, including maintaining or increasing market share and the suppression or eradication of wildfire, animal or plant disease, and insect infestation.

The bill repeals s. 570.1911, F.S., to remove the requirement that notice be given to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives when funds in this trust fund are to be used for a certified agricultural emergency.

B. Amendments:

None.