

THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE



May 5, 2011

The Honorable Mike Haridopolos
President of the Senate

The Honorable Dean Cannon
Speaker, House of Representatives

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

Your Conference Committee on the disagreeing votes of the two houses on SB 2122, same being:

An act relating to consumer protection.

having met, and after full and free conference, do recommend to their respective houses as follows:

1. That the House of Representatives recede from its Amendment 1.
2. That the Senate and House of Representatives adopt the Conference Committee Amendment attached hereto, and by reference made a part of this report.

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The Conference Committee Amendment for SB 2122, relating to state government operations, provides for the following:

- Within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS), consolidates the Division of Dairy Industry within the Division of Food Safety.
- Transfers authority for the regulation and enforcement of the state Lemon Law and the price gouging program entirely to the Department of Legal Affairs.
- Renames the Division of Forestry within the DACS as the Florida Forest Service.
- Reduces the membership of the Citrus Commission from twelve members to nine, reduces the number of citrus districts from four to three, and reassigns counties to those three districts.
- Provides that the Executive Director of the Department of Citrus be appointed by a majority vote of the commission and serve a four-year term, except for the initial term, which expires on June 30, 2011, and shall be subject to confirmation by the Senate in the legislative session following appointment.
- Imposes limits on the tax per box of grapefruit, oranges, and tangerines. The tax on grapefruit, tangerines, and fresh oranges is capped at the rate in effect on May 1, 2011, and the tax rate on oranges in processed form cannot exceed 25 cents per box.
- Requires employees of the Department of Citrus to work a five-day, 40-hour work week, except when on approved leave.