

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

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

Date: March 19, 1998 Revised: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: Residential-Tree-Replacement Program

	<u>Analyst</u>	<u>Staff Director</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	<u>Akhavein</u>	<u>Poole</u>	<u>AG</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>WM</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill requires the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (department) to establish a residential-tree-replacement program for residential trees removed due to infestation by or exposure to citrus canker disease. It requires the department to prepare a report containing the objectives of the program and the methods of implementation. The report must be submitted by January 1, 1999. The destroyed citrus trees cannot be replaced with citrus trees until the state's risk assessment committee determines the inoculant level is low enough not to cause reinfestation. However, trees not subject to citrus canker infestation could be planted prior to this determination. The department will continue to monitor the situation to determine when the residential-tree-replacement program can be implemented.

II. Present Situation:

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services administers a citrus canker eradication program to prevent the spread of citrus canker and to eradicate citrus canker within the state. Chapter 5B-58, F.A.C.:

- Declares citrus canker to be a plant pest and a nuisance;
- Prohibits the removal of citrus nursery stock or citrus nursery plants or plant products from the quarantine area;
- Prohibits retail sale of citrus fruit originating in the quarantine area;
- Identifies regulated articles; and
- Provides for entry of authorized representative upon properties where citrus canker is known to exist or upon properties which have been exposed to citrus canker.

Citrus canker was discovered in Broward, Dade, and Manatee counties in November 1995. The department responded by surveying properties and destroying both the infected trees and any exposed trees within 125 feet of the trees with canker. The department set up a hotline to answer the public's questions and issued pamphlets at displays in shopping centers which explained the epidemic in simple terms. Many homeowners, however, are angry at the loss of their trees and feel that they should be compensated for that loss.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

**Section 1.** Directs the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to establish a residential-tree-replacement program for residential trees removed due to exposure to or infection by citrus canker disease. Requires the department to prepare a report providing the objectives of the program and the implementation methods. Requires the report to be submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Agriculture Committee of the Senate, and the Agriculture Committee of the House of Representatives by January 1, 1999.

**Section 2.** Provides that this act shall take effect July 1 of the year in which enacted.

### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

#### **A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

#### **B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

#### **C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

### **V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**

#### **A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

#### **B. Private Sector Impact:**

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services destroyed approximately 70,000 residential trees, which may impact the value of some properties. The program would provide replacement trees at no cost to the private sector.

## C. Government Sector Impact:

**NON-RECURRING EFFECTS:**

	<b>FY 1998-99</b>	<b>FY 1999-00</b>	<b>FY 2000-01</b>
10 OPS employees @ \$6.73/hr.			
x 1.0765 social security			
x 2,000 hours each year	144,900	144,900	144,900
(5) Cargo vans @ \$18,000 each	90,000	0	0
1 Computer/workstation/printer for database	4,110	0	0
Software and training	890	0	0
Set-up costs for distribution centers	8,600	0	0
Software development	50,000	0	0
<b>TOTAL NON-RECURRING COSTS (GR)</b>	<b>\$298,500</b>	<b>\$144,900</b>	<b>\$144,900</b>

**RECURRING EFFECTS:**

	<b>FY 1998-99</b>	<b>FY 1999-00</b>	<b>FY 2000-01</b>
100,000 trees* (first year)			
50,000 trees* (second year)			
30,000 trees* (third year)	1,250,000	625,000	375,000
Data processing operations	5,000	5,000	5,000
Operating costs, gasoline, supplies	21,400	21,400	21,400
Postage and voucher printing	21,100	21,100	21,100
*Cost per tree is estimated to be \$12.50.			
<b>TOTAL RECURRING COSTS (GR)</b>	<b>\$1,297,500</b>	<b>\$672,500</b>	<b>\$422,500</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING COSTS</b>	<b>\$1,596,000</b>	<b>\$817,400</b>	<b>\$567,400</b>

## VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.

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