

By Senator McKay

26-384A-99

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to agricultural pests and  
3           diseases; creating the Task Force on  
4           Agricultural Pests and Diseases; providing for  
5           its membership and duties; directing the  
6           Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
7           to establish a program for the reimbursement of  
8           temporary relocation expenses incurred to avoid  
9           Malathion spraying; providing an appropriation;  
10          providing an effective date.

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12           WHEREAS, the introduction of agricultural pests and  
13          diseases poses a serious threat to the physical health,  
14          safety, and economic well-being of the people of the state,  
15          and

16           WHEREAS, imported agricultural products provide a means  
17          by which pests and diseases enter this state, resulting in  
18          costly detection, eradication, and control programs, and

19           WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer  
20          Services is responsible for the early detection, eradication,  
21          and control of agricultural pests and diseases in a reasonable  
22          and well-justified manner, NOW, THEREFORE,

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24          Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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26           Section 1. There is created the Task Force on  
27          Agricultural Pests and Diseases consisting of the following  
28          members or their designees: the Commissioner of Agriculture;  
29          the Secretary of the Department of Health; the Secretary of  
30          the Department of Environmental Regulation; the Executive  
31          Director of the Department of Citrus; the Executive Director

1 of the Florida Farm Bureau; the Executive Director of the  
2 Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association; the Executive  
3 Director of Florida Citrus Mutual; the Executive Director of  
4 the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the  
5 University of Florida; the Executive Director of the Florida  
6 Cattlemen's Association; an employee of the United States  
7 Department of Agriculture appointed by the Commissioner of  
8 Agriculture; a private physician appointed by the Secretary of  
9 the Department of Health; and three residents-at-large  
10 appointed by the Governor, one from north Florida, one from  
11 central Florida, and one from south Florida.

12 Section 2. The task force shall:

13 (1) Identify current eradication and prevention  
14 efforts with regard to pest and disease eradication within the  
15 state.

16 (2) Identify any current areas of lack of coverage or  
17 applicability, unaddressed problems, and lack of resources.

18 (3) Initiate a feasibility study for an on-going  
19 sterile medfly release program for the state in general, as  
20 well as a limited area within Dade County.

21 (4) Investigate the need for baseline medical data for  
22 comparison purposes in determining adverse reactions to the  
23 use of pesticides in eradication efforts.

24 (5) Identify areas of scientific research necessary  
25 for effective eradication of plant and animal pests.

26 (6) Report findings and recommendations to the  
27 Legislature by January 1, 2001.

28 Section 3. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer  
29 Services shall establish a program to reimburse residents of  
30 the state for medically necessary temporary relocation to  
31 avoid Malathion spraying. Persons may be reimbursed for

1 temporary and reasonable travel expenses to the closest  
2 location outside the spray zone for the duration of each  
3 individual spray application. Persons seeking reimbursement  
4 must provide documented evidence of medical necessity for the  
5 temporary relocation, receipts for travel and other expenses,  
6 including reasonable lodging costs, not exceeding \$80 per  
7 night, and reasonable meal costs, not exceeding \$21 per person  
8 per day.

9           Section 4. The sum of \$100,000 is appropriated from  
10 the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Agriculture and  
11 Consumer Services for the purpose of paying the costs of  
12 relocation reimbursement expenses provided for in section 3 of  
13 this act during the 1999-2000 fiscal year.

14           Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

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SENATE SUMMARY

18           Creates the Task Force on Agricultural Pests and Diseases  
19           and provides for its membership and duties. Directs the  
20           Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to  
21           establish a program to reimburse persons for medically  
22           necessary temporary relocation expenses to avoid  
23           Malathion spraying. Provides an appropriation for  
24           reimbursement costs.

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