

Bill No. SB 16-A

Barcode 074470

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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Senators King, Smith, and Lynn moved the following amendment:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

On page 1, line 25, through  
page 3, line 12, delete those lines

and insert:

Section 1. (1) The Legislature finds that the Citrus Canker Eradication and Tree Compensation programs, soybean crops, fern crops, and the Caribbean Fruit Fly Certification Program were affected by Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Jeanne, and Ivan and by Tropical Storm Bonnie, which struck the state during 2004. In order to stop further spread of the citrus canker disease and soybean rust, additional work activities are necessary throughout the citrus and soybean growing region of the state.

(2) The Legislature finds that soybean rust was spread into Northwest Florida from South America by Hurricane Ivan, storms of this strength can spread these fungal spores over long distances, and soybean rust is one of the most serious diseases affecting soybeans, with control costs estimated at

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1 \$21 per acre. The Legislature further finds that surveys and  
2 diagnostics are needed in order to determine the extent of  
3 this infestation.

4 (3) The Legislature finds that there is a projected  
5 shortfall of revenues in the Plant Industry Trust Fund for the  
6 purpose of funding the Caribbean Fruit Fly Certification  
7 Program, which allows citrus groves in this state to be  
8 certified as free of the Caribbean fruit fly so that fruit can  
9 be shipped to domestic and foreign markets, such as Japan,  
10 China, Europe, California, and Texas. The Legislature finds  
11 that personnel must continue to conduct activities needed to  
12 meet the requirements of the state's trading partners and that  
13 the acres remaining in the certification program are not  
14 concentrated in one area of the state.

15 Section 2. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer  
16 Services shall provide a report by February 11, 2005,  
17 describing the progress made to date on the eradication of  
18 citrus canker. The report must include the number of trees  
19 cut, the number of trees for which compensation was paid, the  
20 number of Shade Florida vouchers distributed, the amount of  
21 state and federal funds spent, and the funding impacts on the  
22 2005-2006 fiscal year budget. The report must be submitted to  
23 the Executive Office of the Governor, the President of the  
24 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

25 Section 3. (1) For the 2004-2005 fiscal year only,  
26 \$7.1 million is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund and  
27 \$6 million is appropriated from the Contracts and Grants Trust  
28 Fund to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in  
29 lump sum to implement activities associated with citrus canker  
30 eradication, citrus canker tree compensation, soybean rust  
31 control, and Caribbean fruit fly certification, which were

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1 adversely affected by the 2004 hurricanes and tropical storm.

2 (2) In planning the expenditure of funds appropriated,  
3 the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall  
4 maximize available federal funds for citrus canker eradication  
5 and citrus canker tree compensation.

6 Section 4. (1) For the 2004-2005 fiscal year only,  
7 \$4.2 million is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to  
8 the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in lump  
9 sum to assist the state's fern industry, which was adversely  
10 affected by the 2004 hurricanes and tropical storm.

11 (2) The Department of Agriculture and Consumer  
12 Services shall screen applicants and certify an applicant as  
13 qualified for state funding based on the number of fern acres  
14 lost to production due to the damage to the natural shade oak  
15 hammock.

16  
17 (Redesignate subsequent sections.)

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20 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

21 And the title is amended as follows:

22 On page 1, lines 10-16, delete those lines

23

24 and insert:

25 of such infestation, fern crops, and a  
26 projected shortfall in revenues of the Plant  
27 Industry Trust Fund; requiring the department  
28 to provide a report on citrus canker  
29 eradication to the Governor and the  
30 Legislature; providing appropriations;  
31 requiring the department to maximize available

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1 federal funds for certain programs; requiring  
2 the department to screen certain applicants  
3 based on the number of acres lost to  
4 production; requiring  
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