BILL: CS/CS/CS/SB 1372, 2nd Engrossed (CS/HB 651)

INTRODUCER: Agriculture Committee; General Government Appropriations; Commerce;
                   Agriculture; Co-Introducers Lynn; Bullard

SUBJECT: Agriculture and Consumer Services

PREPARED BY: Senate Committee on Agriculture

DATE: April 24, 2007

I.   Amendments Contained in Message:

Substitute Amendment for Amendment (766599) to Senate Bill (body with title)

II.   Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1 provides for a person to obtain a special permit from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (department) to plant Casuarina cunninghamiana (Australian Pine) as a windbreak for a commercial citrus grove, provided the plants are produced in an authorized registered nursery and certified by the department as being propagated from male plants.

Special permits will only be issued to a person for such plantings as part of a pilot program where citrus canker is widespread. Application for a special permit must be accompanied by a fee, not to exceed $500. Special permits must be renewed every five years. Nurseries authorized to produce the trees must obtain a special permit from the department to certify the plants are from male source trees grown in the state. Each nursery application must be accompanied by a fee, not to exceed $200, and renewed annually for a fee not to exceed $50, for each source tree.

If a site is no longer used for commercial citrus production, or the trees become invasive, the trees must be destroyed. A determination of whether the trees have become invasive will be made by the department based upon the recommendation of the Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Review Committee.

The use of these trees for windbreaks is not to restrict or interfere with any agency or local government effort to manage or control noxious weeds or invasive plants, nor may any other agency or local government remove such trees planted as a windbreak under a special permit.