

By the Committees on Agriculture; Agriculture

575-06013-08

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to a review of the Department of Citrus
3 under the Florida Government Accountability Act;
4 reenacting ss. 20.29, 601.04, and 601.05, F.S., relating
5 to the Department of Citrus and the Florida Citrus
6 Commission; amending s. 601.15, F.S.; revising the
7 deadline by which the Florida Citrus Commission sets the
8 annual citrus excise tax rate; deleting a provision
9 requiring the commission to consider certain projected
10 collection of taxes in setting the rate; conforming
11 provisions relating to the season upon which the tax rate
12 applies; repealing s. 601.154, F.S., relating to the
13 Citrus Stabilization Act of Florida; providing an
14 effective date.

15
16 WHEREAS, ss. 11.901-11.920, Florida Statutes, the Florida
17 Government Accountability Act, subjects the Department of
18 Citrus and its respective advisory committees to a sunset
19 review process in order to determine whether the agency should
20 be retained, modified, or abolished, and

21 WHEREAS, the Department of Citrus produced a report
22 providing specific information, as enumerated in s. 11.906,
23 Florida Statutes, and

24 WHEREAS, upon receipt of the report, the Joint Legislative
25 Sunset Committee and committees of the Senate and the House of
26 Representatives assigned to act as sunset review committees
27 reviewed the report and requested studies by the Office of
28 Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, and

29 WHEREAS, based on the department's report, studies of the

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30 Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government
31 Accountability, and public input, the Joint Legislative Sunset
32 Committee and legislative sunset review committees made
33 recommendations on the abolition, continuation, or
34 reorganization of the Department of Citrus and its advisory
35 committees; on the need for the functions performed by the
36 agency and its advisory committees; and on the consolidation,
37 transfer, or reorganization of programs within the Department
38 of Citrus, NOW, THEREFORE,

39

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

41

42 Section 1. Sections 20.29, 601.04, and 601.05, Florida
43 Statutes, are reenacted.

44 Section 2. Paragraph (e) of subsection (3) of section
45 601.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

46 601.15 Advertising campaign; methods of conducting; excise
47 tax; emergency reserve fund; citrus research.--

48 (3)

49 (e) The commission, upon an affirmative vote of a majority
50 of its members and by an order entered by it prior to November
51 ~~August~~ 1 of any year, may set the tax rates up to the maximum
52 rates specified in this subsection ~~if the commission determines~~
53 ~~that the specified tax rate will result in collection of funds,~~
54 ~~during the ensuing citrus season, which exceed projected needs,~~
55 ~~including all legal obligations.~~ The tax rate shall apply only to
56 the citrus season which began on August 1 of the same calendar
57 year immediately follows entry of the order setting the rate.

58 Such tax rate may be applied by variety and on the basis of

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59 | whether the fruit enters the primary channel of trade for use in
60 | fresh or processed form. If the commission cannot agree on a box
61 | tax rate, the tax rate for the previous year shall remain in
62 | effect until the commission approves a new rate.

63 | Section 3. Section 601.154, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

64 | Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.