

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the General Government Appropriations Committee

BILL: SB 1210

INTRODUCER: Agriculture Committee

SUBJECT: Dept. of Citrus/Florida Government Accountability Act

DATE: March 19, 2009 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Poole	Poole	AG	Favorable
2.	Naf	Wilson	GO	Favorable
3.	Blizzard	DeLoach	GA	Favorable
4.				
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

The bill retains the Department of Citrus (department), including the Florida Citrus Commission, which is subject to a “sunset review” under the Florida Government Accountability Act. The bill discontinues the School Marketing Program Administrative Committee and repeals the Citrus Stabilization Act under which it was created. Through a series of statutory changes over the years, authority to market and promote Florida citrus products in ways contemplated by the Citrus Stabilization Act are now provided in other sections of law. Therefore, this particular act is duplicative.

The bill reenacts sections 20.29, 601.04, and 601.05 of the Florida Statutes.

The bill repeals section 601.154, Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Sections 11.901-.920, F.S., are known as the Florida Government Accountability Act. Under this act, most state agencies and their respective advisory committees are subject to a sunset review process to determine whether the agency should be retained, modified, or abolished. As a result, a report was issued that reviewed the Department of Citrus including the Florida Citrus Commission (commission).

This citrus industry is a major part of Florida’s economy that continues to increase in production value. Between 1950 and 2000, the inflation-adjusted production value for all Florida citrus grew from \$393.5 million to \$1.3 billion in 2006 dollars.

State regulation of the citrus industry was initiated in 1935 with the passage of chs. 16854 and 16863, L.O.F. The Legislature determined in these acts that the exercise of police power was needed to stabilize and protect the citrus industry, which was a major agricultural enterprise in Florida. These acts established the Florida Citrus Commission to promulgate citrus industry regulations. Further, the commission has general supervisory authority over the department.

The department was established by ss. 20.29 and 601.05, F.S. As provided by s. 601.10, F.S., the department is authorized to promulgate rules, employ staff, expend and invest funds, collect and disseminate information, and contract with private entities in order to carry out the requirements of the Florida Citrus Code (ch. 601.F.S.)

The Senate Committee on Agriculture is the primary committee for sunset review of the department. The Senate General Government Appropriations Committee assisted in this review.

An interim report with the following recommendations was issued to assist the committee in fulfilling its obligations under the sunset review:

- Recommendation #1
The Legislature should retain the department.
- Recommendation #2
The Legislature should give consideration to eliminating the School Marketing Program Administrative Committee.
- Recommendation #3
The department should build upon its opportunity to establish a new dialogue with citrus growers to enhance the industry and clearly define the role of the department.
- Recommendation #4
The citrus industry should collectively agree upon a preferred way forward by refining the options before it, such as petitioning the federal government to allocate a portion of the duties paid on imported juice to supplement grower funded promotions, and evaluating the feasibility of establishing a federal research and promotion program for orange juice.
- Recommendation #5
Research into citrus disease cures and controls as well as abscission methods and mechanical harvesting should be continued and enhanced.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill reenacts the sections of the statutes that created and established the Department of Citrus and the Florida Citrus Commission.

The bill repeals the Citrus Stabilization Act and thereby the School Marketing Program Administrative Committee, which was formed under the authority of the act in 1972. The committee has not been utilized recently and all available funds were expended by the close of Fiscal Year 2006-2007. Through a series of statutory changes over the years, authority to market

and promote Florida citrus products in ways contemplated by the Citrus Stabilization Act, as well as the authority to budget, tax, and make expenditures for these purposes is provided by the more broadly encompassing s. 601.15, F.S. Therefore, the duplicative s. 601.154, F.S., is repealed.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill retains the Department of Citrus, which generated \$60.1 million in revenues and expended \$53.1 million in the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
