

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 Agriculture Committee

BILL: SB 592

INTRODUCER: Senator Siplin

SUBJECT: Sales Tax/Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Packinghouses

DATE: November 10, 2011 REVISED: 11/14/11 _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Akhavein</u>	<u>Buford</u>	<u>AG</u>	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	<u>BC</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill provides the same sales tax exemption for electricity used directly or indirectly in fresh fruit and vegetable packinghouses that are located off-site of a farm as those located on a farm. The exemption does not apply to electricity used in buildings or structures where agricultural products are sold at retail. Buildings or structures used for retail sales must be separately metered.

This bill amends section 212.08, of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

A packinghouse is a facility where fresh fruits and vegetables are cleaned, sorted, sized and sometimes packaged prior to distribution to markets and stores. Current law exempts electricity used directly or indirectly for production or processing of agricultural products on a farm from the sales and use tax. While packinghouses located on a farm are exempt under this provision, packinghouses not located on a farm are subject to sales and use tax on the electricity consumed. This law was written when most packinghouses were located on the farm, but urban encroachment may now surround a packinghouse that once was surrounded by farmland, so it no longer qualifies for exemption under present law.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 amends s. 212.08, F.S., to provide a sales tax exemption for electricity used directly or indirectly in a packinghouse. It changes the definition of "packinghouse" to include any building

or structure where fresh fruits and vegetables are packed or prepared for market or shipment, whether or not the packinghouse is physically on a farm.

Section 2 provides that this act shall take effect July 1, 2012.

Other Potential Implications:

None.

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:

The November 10, 2011, Revenue Estimating Conference estimated that the provisions of this bill would result in a recurring negative fiscal impact of \$900,000 to the state and \$200,000 to local governments, for a total recurring impact of \$1.1 million.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Persons operating packinghouses for the packaging of fruits and vegetables for market or shipment in fresh form for wholesale distribution will no longer pay sales tax for the electricity used in the packinghouse.

C. Government Sector Impact:

See Tax/Fee Issues above.

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.
