

Amendment No. 2

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
WITHDRAWN	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
OTHER	<u> </u>	

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Agriculture & Natural
 2 Resources Appropriations Subcommittee
 3 Representative Raburn offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Between lines 555 and 556, insert:

Section 20. Effective upon becoming law, section 581.189,
Florida Statutes, is created to read:

581.189. Grove Removal or Vector Elimination (GROVE)

Program.—

(1) There is created within the Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services the Grove Removal or Vector Elimination
Program, a cost-sharing program for the removal or destruction
of abandoned citrus groves to eliminate the material harboring
the citrus disease Huanglongbing, also known as citrus greening,
and the vectors that spread the disease.

(2) For purposes of this section, the term:

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18 (a) "Abandoned citrus grove" means a citrus grove that has
19 minimal or no production value and is no longer economically
20 viable as a commercial citrus grove.

21 (b) "Applicant" means the person that owns an abandoned
22 citrus grove.

23 (c) "Eligible costs" means the costs, incurred after an
24 application is selected for funding, of the removal or
25 destruction of citrus trees and the elimination of any citrus
26 greening vectors, as described in the removal or destruction
27 plan in the funded application.

28 (d) "Funded application" means an application selected for
29 cost-share funding pursuant to this section and rules adopted by
30 the department.

31 (e) "Program" means the Grove Removal or Vector
32 Elimination Program.

33 (3) The department shall adopt by rule the standards to be
34 used in reviewing and ranking applications for cost-share
35 funding under the program based on the following factors:

36 (a) The length of time the citrus groves have been
37 abandoned.

38 (b) Whether the citrus groves are located within a Citrus
39 Health Management Area.

40 (c) The proximity of the abandoned citrus groves to other
41 citrus groves currently in production.

42 (4) An applicant may submit multiple applications for the
43 program, but is eligible only for a maximum of \$125,000 in

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44 program cost-share funding in a given fiscal year. The
45 department may award to each funded application a cost-share of
46 up to 80 percent of eligible costs. The total amount of cost-
47 share allocated under the program in each fiscal year may not
48 exceed the amount specifically appropriated for the program for
49 the fiscal year.

50 (5) An applicant seeking cost-share funding under the
51 program must submit an application to the department by a date
52 determined by department rule. The application must include, at
53 minimum:

54 (a) The applicant's plan to remove or destroy citrus trees
55 and any citrus greening vectors in the abandoned citrus grove.

56 (b) An affidavit from the applicant certifying that all
57 information contained in the application is true and correct.

58 (c) All information determined by rule to be necessary for
59 the department to determine eligibility for the program and rank
60 applications.

61 (6) If the department determines that an application is
62 incomplete, it may require the applicant to submit additional
63 information within 10 days after such determination is made.

64 (7) Each fiscal year, the department shall review all
65 complete applications received in accordance with its rules
66 adopted pursuant to subsection (5). For each such complete
67 submitted application, the department must rank the applications
68 in accordance with the factors specified in subsection (3), and
69 before selecting an application for funding, must conduct an

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70 inspection of the abandoned citrus grove that is the subject of
71 the application.

72 (8) The department may deny an application, pursuant to
73 chapter 120 for failure to comply with this section and
74 department rules.

75 (9) If an application is selected for funding, the
76 applicant must initiate and complete the removal or destruction
77 of the citrus trees identified in the application within the
78 time specified by department rule. The applicant's failure to
79 initiate and complete the removal or destruction of the
80 identified citrus trees within the time specified by the
81 department results in the forfeiture of cost-share funding
82 approved based on the application. Upon such occurrence, the
83 department shall notify the next eligible applicant, based upon
84 its ranking of applicants for the fiscal year, of the
85 availability of cost-share funding. Such applicant, upon
86 acceptance, may be awarded cost-share funding pursuant to this
87 section, subject to available program funds.

88 (10) Upon completion of the scope of work identified in
89 the funded application, the applicant must present proof of
90 payment of removal or destruction costs to the department. Upon
91 receipt of satisfactory proof of payment and satisfactory proof
92 of the removal or destruction of the trees identified in the
93 funded application, the department may issue payment to the
94 applicant for the previously approved cost-share amount.

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95 (11) The department may adopt rules to implement and
96 administer this section, including an application process and
97 requirements, a ranking process of applications that is
98 consistent with the factors specified in subsection (3), and the
99 administration of the cost-share funding.

100 (13) The annual awarding of funding through the program is
101 subject to specific legislative appropriation for this program.

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104 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

105 Remove line 77 and insert:

106 plants and plant products; creating s. 581.189, F.S.; creating
107 the Grove Removal or Vector Elimination (GROVE) Program;
108 specifying the purpose of the program; defining terms; requiring
109 the department to adopt rules for reviewing and ranking
110 applications for cost-share funding to remove or destroy
111 abandoned citrus groves; establishing per applicant award
112 maximums; specifying that the total funds awarded in a fiscal
113 year cannot exceed the amount specifically appropriated for the
114 program; specifying application requirements; specifying how the
115 department must process applications; specifying that
116 noncompliance will result in forfeiture of cost-share funds;
117 requiring the department to review and rank applications and to
118 conduct an inspection; specifying grounds for denial of an
119 application; requiring applicants selected for funding to timely
120 initiate and complete removal of identified citrus trees in

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121 accordance with their respective applications; providing the
122 process for making payments to applicants; authorizing the
123 department to adopt rules; specifying that funding for the
124 program is contingent upon specific appropriation by the
125 Legislature; amending s. 582.01, F.S.;