

CS/CS/CS/HB 981 — Agriculture

by General Government Policy Council, Natural Resources Appropriations, Agriculture & Natural Resources Policy, and Reps. Grimsley and Boyd and others (CS/CS/CS/SB 2182 by General Government Appropriations Committee, Community Affairs Committee, Agriculture Committee, and Senator Alexander

The bill prohibits a change in the assessment of land classified as agricultural land if the only changed circumstance is that the land is being offered for sale. It specifies how structures or improvements are to be assessed if they are used for frost and freeze protection in horticulture production. It provides the authority for the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS), in conjunction with other interested agencies, to develop a permitting process that will allow the Department of Environmental Protection to regulate pesticides applied to waters of the state in conformity with the federal Clean Water Act. It establishes an advisory council for a citrus research marketing order and increases the maximum amount of the box assessment for citrus fruit. It requires DACS, along with representatives of the state pest control industry, to prepare a report and recommend changes to disciplinary action that can be taken against licensees of the pest control industry. It confirms the physical relocation of the executive offices of the Department of Citrus from Lakeland to Bartow.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2010.

Vote: Senate 34-1; House 112-1