

Senate Bill No. 2062

CHAPTER 635

An act relating to agricultural commissioners, and making an appropriation therefor.

[Approved by Governor September 19, 1996. Filed with Secretary of State September 19, 1996.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 2062, Rogers. Agricultural commissioners: enforcement programs: study.

Existing law provides for county agricultural commissioners with specified duties and responsibilities.

This bill would require the Secretary of Food and Agriculture to encourage representatives of the agricultural industry, consumer groups, county governments, county agricultural commissioners, the Department of Pesticide Regulation, and the Department of Food and Agriculture to conduct a study of specified content and to prepare and submit, on or before January 1, 1998, a report to the Legislature relating to the county agricultural commissioners. The bill also would authorize the study group, by consensus, to select a third party to facilitate meetings and prepare the report to the Legislature.

This bill would appropriate \$50,000 to the secretary, as specified, for the purpose of providing funds for the study.

Appropriation: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of the following:

(a) State-mandated enforcement programs conducted by the county agricultural commissioners are critical to the state's agricultural food and fiber supply, public health and welfare, and the agricultural industry.

(b) Fiscal constraints have caused many counties to reduce the level of support that is available and can be provided by the county general funds to support these programs.

(c) Representatives from the county agricultural commissioners, the agricultural industry, county governments, consumer groups, the Department of Pesticide Regulation, and the Department of Food and Agriculture are prepared to meet and study this situation and provide recommendations to the Legislature for funding and levels of service.



SEC. 2. (a) The Secretary of Food and Agriculture shall encourage representatives of the agricultural industry, consumer groups, county governments, county agricultural commissioners, the Department of Pesticide Regulation, and the Department of Food and Agriculture to conduct a study that evaluates the statutory and regulatory responsibilities and appropriate funding sources for mandated programs conducted by the county agricultural commissioners.

(b) The study shall place priority upon pest exclusion programs and shall review the essential county agricultural commissioner responsibilities and opportunities for improving and funding mandated activities, using criteria that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(1) An inventory of the major activities of the county agricultural commissioners.

(2) A determination, activity by activity, whether or not an activity is a core function integral to accomplishment of the mission of the county agricultural commissioner.

(3) If the activity is not critical to the mission of the county agricultural commissioner, a determination whether the activity is essential to the mission of another government agency.

(4) A development of performance, cost, and quality measures for all activities of the county agricultural commissioner.

(5) A determination of direct control over an activity or whether the county agricultural commissioner can obtain a comparative advantage over alternative sources by performing the activity itself.

(6) Identification of funding sources for activities that are performed more cost-effectively by the county agricultural commissioner.

(c) It is the intent of the Legislature that any study group formed pursuant to subdivision (a) prepare a report of its findings and recommendations and submit the report to the Legislature on or before January 1, 1998. If the report is prepared, it shall contain the findings and recommendations for mandated programs and proposals for adequate funding of state enforcement programs.

(d) A study group formed pursuant to subdivision (a), by consensus, may select a third party to facilitate meetings and prepare the report to the Legislature required by subdivision (c).

(e) The study shall draw upon other available reports and studies.

SEC. 3. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, for the purpose of providing funding for the study referred to in Section 2, there is hereby appropriated to the Secretary of Food and Agriculture an amount not to exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) as follows:

(a) From funds transferred to the Department of Food and Agriculture Fund pursuant to Section 8352.5 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, as described in Section 224 of the Food and



Agricultural Code, a sum not to exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000).

(b) From funds referred to in Provision 1 of Item 8570-001-0001 of Section 2.00 of the Budget Act of 1996 (Ch. 162, Stats. 1996), a sum not to exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000).

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