Amendment No. 2

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION
ADMITTED
ADMITTED AS AMENDED
ADMITTED W/O OBJECTION
FAILED TO ADOPT
WITHDRAWN
OTHER

Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee
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:
(a) “Abandoned citrus grove” means a citrus grove that has minimal or no production value and is no longer economically viable as a commercial citrus grove.

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

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

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

(e) “Program” means the Grove Removal or Vector Elimination Program.

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

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

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

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

(4) An applicant may submit multiple applications for the program, but is eligible only for a maximum of $125,000 in
program cost-share funding in a given fiscal year. The department may award to each funded application a cost-share of up to 80 percent of eligible costs. The total amount of cost-share allocated under the program in each fiscal year may not exceed the amount specifically appropriated for the program for the fiscal year.

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

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

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

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

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

(7) Each fiscal year, the department shall review all complete applications received in accordance with its rules adopted pursuant to subsection (5). For each such complete submitted application, the department must rank the applications in accordance with the factors specified in subsection (3), and before selecting an application for funding, must conduct an
inspection of the abandoned citrus grove that is the subject of
the application.

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

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

(10) Upon completion of the scope of work identified in
the funded application, the applicant must present proof of
payment of removal or destruction costs to the department. Upon
receipt of satisfactory proof of payment and satisfactory proof
of the removal or destruction of the trees identified in the
funded application, the department may issue payment to the
applicant for the previously approved cost-share amount.
(11) The department may adopt rules to implement and administer this section, including an application process and requirements, a ranking process of applications that is consistent with the factors specified in subsection (3), and the administration of the cost-share funding.

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

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TITLE AMENDMENT

Remove line 77 and insert:

plants and plant products; creating s. 581.189, F.S.; creating the Grove Removal or Vector Elimination (GROVE) Program; specifying the purpose of the program; defining terms; requiring the department to adopt rules for reviewing and ranking applications for cost-share funding to remove or destroy abandoned citrus groves; establishing per applicant award maximums; specifying that the total funds awarded in a fiscal year cannot exceed the amount specifically appropriated for the program; specifying application requirements; specifying how the department must process applications; specifying that noncompliance will result in forfeiture of cost-share funds; requiring the department to review and rank applications and to conduct an inspection; specifying grounds for denial of an application; requiring applicants selected for funding to timely initiate and complete removal of identified citrus trees in
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accordance with their respective applications; providing the process for making payments to applicants; authorizing the department to adopt rules; specifying that funding for the program is contingent upon specific appropriation by the Legislature; amending s. 582.01, F.S.;