

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based only on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: SB 924

SPONSOR: Senator McKay

SUBJECT: Agricultural Pests & Diseases/Task Force

DATE: March 3, 1999

REVISED: 3/4/99 _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Henderson</u>	<u>Poole</u>	<u>AG</u>	<u>Fav/1 amendment</u>
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill creates the Task Force on Agricultural Pests and Diseases and provides for its membership and duties. It directs the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to establish a program to reimburse persons who choose to temporarily relocate because of a medical necessity during Malathion spraying. It also provides an appropriation for reimbursement costs.

This bill has an effective date of July 1, 1999.

II. Present Situation:

The Mediterranean Fruit Fly has been detected on four separate occasions in central Florida since May 1997. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACs) and the USDA initiated a joint eradication effort after each detection. During the 1997 interim the Senate Committee on Agriculture completed an interim report on the Review of the Mediterranean Fruit Fly Eradication Program. The report concluded that at the end of the Medfly eradication program, an assessment of its efficiency and effect on human health and the environment should be conducted.

Senate Bill 926 (Ch. 98-108) passed the 1998 Legislature and became law. It requires the DACs to use a pesticide that has been approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and to inform the public regarding the Medfly Eradication Program when the infestation of Medflies requires the DACs to use aerial application.

In addition, the law requires the Department of Health (DOH) to monitor health problems that result from chemical exposure, establish a toll-free hotline so that individuals may call to register complaints, provide physicians and health care facilities with technical assistance, provide technical assistance to the DACs when an emergency arises from aerial application of a pesticide to an urbanized area, and to establish a health advisory committee.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1: Creates a task force on Agricultural Pests and Diseases consisting of 14 members: Commissioner of Agriculture; Secretary of the Department of Health; Secretary of the Department of Environmental Regulation; Executive Director of the Department of Citrus; Executive Director of the Florida Farm Bureau; Executive Director of the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association; Executive Director of Florida Citrus Mutual; Executive Director of the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida; Executive Director of the Florida Cattlemen's Association; an employee of the United States Department of Agriculture, appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture; a private physician appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Health; and three residents-at-large appointed by the Governor, one from each region of the state (north, central and south Florida).

Section 2: Defines the duties of the task force as follows:

- Identify current eradication and prevention efforts with regard to pest and disease eradication within the state;
- Identify any current areas of lack of coverage or applicability, unaddressed problems and lack of resources;
- Initiate a study regarding the feasibility of the on-going sterile medfly release program for the entire state and a limited area within Dade County;
- Investigate the need for baseline medical data as a means to compare the adverse reactions to the use of pesticides in eradication efforts;
- Identify areas of scientific research necessary for effective eradication of plant and animal pests; and,
- Report findings and recommendations to the Legislature by January 1, 2001.

Section 3: Directs the DACS to establish a program to reimburse persons who choose to temporarily relocate because of a medical necessity during Malathion spraying. The individuals must provide documentation for the medical necessity to temporarily relocate as well as receipts for lodging and meals. Lodging is not to exceed \$80 per night and food is not to exceed \$21 per person, per day.

Section 4: Appropriates \$100,000 from General Revenue fund to the DACS to provide reimbursement for residents who choose to relocate due to the Malathion spraying.

Section 5: Provides an effective date of July 1, 1999.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Individuals who choose to temporarily relocate because of a medical necessity during Malathion spraying will be reimbursed for certain expenses.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill provides for a \$100,000 appropriation from the General Revenue fund to the DACS.

The DACS has estimated the fiscal impact of this bill as follows:

FISCAL IMPACT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES			
	Amount Year 1 FY (99-00)	Amount Year 2 FY (00-01)	Amount Year 3 FY (01-02)
Non-Recurring Costs	19,302	-0-	-0-
Recurring Costs (position, expenses, and \$100,00 appropriation per diem)	153,458	154,793	156,189
Grand Total Costs	<u>172,760</u>	<u>154,793</u>	<u>156,189</u>

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

In section one the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation should be the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Amendment #1 corrects this technical deficiency.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

#1 by Agriculture and Consumer Services:

This amendment corrects a reference to a state agency. It changes Florida Department of Environmental Regulation to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
