



423906

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
02/10/2026	.	
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The Committee on Rules (Truenow) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete lines 1109 - 1397

and insert:

Section 32. Subsection (7) of section 573.112, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

573.112 Advisory council.—

(7) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, the Citrus Research and Field Trial Development Foundation, Inc., a direct-support organization of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services ~~University of Florida~~ established pursuant to



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12 s. 570.691 ~~s. 1004.28~~, shall serve as the advisory council for a  
13 citrus research marketing order, provide the department with  
14 advice on administering the order, and, in accordance with the  
15 order, conduct citrus research and perform other duties assigned  
16 by the department. Notwithstanding s. 570.691 ~~s. 1004.28(3)~~ or  
17 any provision of this section, the foundation's board of  
18 directors shall be composed of the Florida State Plant Health  
19 Inspection Service Director and, appointed by the Commissioner  
20 of Agriculture, 7 members who are ~~13 members, including 10~~  
21 ~~citrus growers, 2 representatives of the university's Institute~~  
22 ~~of Food and Agricultural Sciences,~~ and 1 member who is a Florida  
23 citrus nursery representative. Members of the board of directors  
24 shall serve without compensation but ~~appointed by the~~  
25 ~~Commissioner of Agriculture, who~~ are each entitled to  
26 reimbursement from the foundation for per diem and travel  
27 expenses as provided in s. 112.061.

28 Section 33. Subsection (32) of section 581.031, Florida  
29 Statutes, is amended to read:

30 581.031 Department; powers and duties.—The department has  
31 the following powers and duties:

32 (32) To conduct or cause to be conducted research projects,  
33 including, but not limited to, citrus canker and citrus  
34 greening, which are recommended by the Citrus Research and Field  
35 Trial Development Foundation, Inc., within the limits of  
36 appropriations made specifically for such purpose.

37 Section 34. Subsection (4) of section 583.01, Florida  
38 Statutes, is amended to read:

39 583.01 Definitions.—For the purpose of this chapter, unless  
40 elsewhere indicated, the term:



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41 (4) "Dealer" means a person, firm, or corporation,  
42 including a producer, processor, retailer, or wholesaler, that  
43 sells, offers for sale, or holds for the purpose of sale in this  
44 state 30 dozen or more eggs or its equivalent in any one week,  
45 or more than 20,000 ~~384~~ dressed birds annually ~~in any one week~~.

46 Section 35. Section 590.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
47 read:

48 590.02 Florida Forest Service; powers, authority, and  
49 duties; liability; building structures; Withlacoochee and Welaka  
50 Training Centers ~~Center~~.—

51 (1) The Florida Forest Service has the following powers,  
52 authority, and duties to:

53 (a) Enforce the provisions of this chapter;

54 (b) Prevent, detect, and suppress wildfires wherever they  
55 may occur on public or private land in this state and do all  
56 things necessary in the exercise of such powers, authority, and  
57 duties;

58 (c) Provide firefighting crews, who shall be under the  
59 control and direction of the Florida Forest Service and its  
60 designated agents;

61 (d) Appoint center managers, forest area supervisors,  
62 forestry program administrators, a forest protection bureau  
63 chief, a forest protection assistant bureau chief, a field  
64 operations bureau chief, deputy chiefs of field operations,  
65 district managers, forest operations administrators, senior  
66 forest rangers, investigators, forest rangers, firefighter  
67 rotorcraft pilots, and other employees who may, at the Florida  
68 Forest Service's discretion, be certified as forestry  
69 firefighters pursuant to s. 633.408(8). Other law



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70 notwithstanding, center managers, district managers, forest  
71 protection assistant bureau chief, and deputy chiefs of field  
72 operations have Selected Exempt Service status in the state  
73 personnel designation;

74 (e) Develop a training curriculum for wildland firefighters  
75 which must contain a minimum of 40 hours of structural  
76 firefighter training, a minimum of 40 hours of emergency medical  
77 training, and a minimum of 376 hours of wildfire training;

78 (f) Pay the cost of the initial commercial driver license  
79 examination fee, and renewal for those employees whose position  
80 requires them to operate equipment requiring a license. This  
81 paragraph is intended to be an authorization to the department  
82 to pay such costs, not an obligation;

83 (g) Provide fire management services and emergency response  
84 assistance and set and charge reasonable fees for performance of  
85 those services. Moneys collected from such fees shall be  
86 deposited into the Incidental Trust Fund of the Florida Forest  
87 Service;

88 (h) Require all state, regional, and local government  
89 agencies operating aircraft in the vicinity of an ongoing  
90 wildfire to operate in compliance with the applicable state  
91 Wildfire Aviation Plan;

92 (i) Authorize broadcast burning, prescribed burning, pile  
93 burning, and land clearing debris burning to carry out the  
94 duties of this chapter and the rules adopted thereunder; and

95 (j) Make rules to accomplish the purposes of this chapter.

96 (2) The Florida Forest Service's employees, and the  
97 firefighting crews under their control and direction, may enter  
98 upon any lands for the purpose of preventing, detecting, and



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99 suppressing wildfires and investigating smoke complaints or open  
100 burning not in compliance with authorization and to enforce the  
101 provisions of this chapter.

102 (3) Employees of the Florida Forest Service and of federal,  
103 state, and local agencies, and all other persons and entities  
104 that are under contract or agreement with the Florida Forest  
105 Service to assist in firefighting operations as well as those  
106 entities, called upon by the Florida Forest Service to assist in  
107 firefighting may, in the performance of their duties, set  
108 counterfires, remove fences and other obstacles, dig trenches,  
109 cut firelines, use water from public and private sources, and  
110 carry on all other customary activities in the fighting of  
111 wildfires without incurring liability to any person or entity.  
112 The manner in which the Florida Forest Service monitors a  
113 smoldering wildfire or smoldering prescribed fire or fights any  
114 wildfire are planning level activities for which sovereign  
115 immunity applies and is not waived.

116 (4) (a) The department may build structures, notwithstanding  
117 chapters 216 and 255, not to exceed a cost of \$50,000 per  
118 structure from existing resources on forest lands, federal  
119 excess property, and unneeded existing structures. These  
120 structures must meet all applicable building codes.

121 (b) Notwithstanding s. 553.80(1), the department shall  
122 exclusively enforce the Florida Building Code as it pertains to  
123 wildfire, law enforcement, and other Florida Forest Service  
124 facilities under the jurisdiction of the department.

125 (5) The Florida Forest Service shall organize its  
126 operational units to most effectively prevent, detect, and  
127 suppress wildfires, and to that end, may employ the necessary



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128 personnel to manage its activities in each unit. The Florida  
129 Forest Service may construct lookout towers, roads, bridges,  
130 firelines, and other facilities and may purchase or fabricate  
131 tools, supplies, and equipment for firefighting. The Florida  
132 Forest Service may reimburse the public and private entities  
133 that it engages to assist in the suppression of wildfires for  
134 their personnel and equipment, including aircraft.

135 (6) The Florida Forest Service shall undertake  
136 privatization alternatives for fire prevention activities  
137 including constructing fire lines and conducting prescribed  
138 burns and, where appropriate, entering into agreements or  
139 contracts with the private sector to perform such activities.

140 (7) The Florida Forest Service may organize, staff, equip,  
141 and operate the Withlacoochee and Welaka Training Centers  
142 Center. The centers ~~center~~ shall serve as sites ~~a site~~ where  
143 fire and forest resource managers can obtain current knowledge,  
144 techniques, skills, and theory as they relate to their  
145 respective disciplines, and the centers:-

146 (a) ~~The center~~ May establish cooperative efforts involving  
147 federal, state, and local entities; hire appropriate personnel;  
148 and engage others by contract or agreement with or without  
149 compensation to assist in carrying out the training and  
150 operations of the centers ~~center~~.

151 (b) ~~The center~~ Shall provide wildfire suppression training  
152 opportunities for rural fire departments, volunteer fire  
153 departments, and other local fire response units.

154 (c) ~~The center~~ Shall focus on curriculum related to, but  
155 not limited to, fuel reduction, an incident management system,  
156 prescribed burning certification, multiple-use land management,



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157 water quality, forest health, environmental education, and  
158 wildfire suppression training for structural firefighters.

159 (d) ~~The center~~ May assess appropriate fees for food,  
160 lodging, travel, course materials, and supplies in order to meet  
161 their ~~its~~ operational costs and may grant free meals, room, and  
162 scholarships to persons and other entities as determined by the  
163 Florida Forest Service, regardless of whether training occurs at  
164 the Withlacoochee Training Center or Welaka Training Center or  
165 at another location in exchange for instructional assistance.

166 (8) (a) The Cross City Work Center shall be named the L.  
167 Earl Peterson Forestry Station. This is to honor Mr. L. Earl  
168 Peterson, Florida's sixth state forester, whose distinguished  
169 career in state government has spanned 44 years, and who is a  
170 native of Dixie County.

171 (b) The Madison Forestry Station shall be named the Harvey  
172 Greene Sr. Forestry Station. This is to honor Mr. Harvey Greene  
173 Sr., a World War I veteran and pioneer in forestry in Madison  
174 County. In 1947, Mr. Harvey Greene Sr. offered to give the land  
175 on which the forestry station is located to the state; however,  
176 at that time, the state could not accept donations of land.  
177 Instead, Mr. Harvey Greene Sr. sold the land to the state and,  
178 with the proceeds of the sale, purchased forestry equipment to  
179 be used by the citizens of Madison County to plant trees and  
180 fight wildfires.

181 (c) The Bonifay Forestry Station shall be named the John  
182 Michael Mathis Forestry Station. This is to honor the late Mr.  
183 John Michael Mathis, the Chipola Forestry Center manager whose  
184 distinguished career spanned 18 years, and who received many  
185 awards for his service, including commendation for leadership in



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186 wildfire mitigation for his service during Hurricane Michael.  
187 Mr. John Michael Mathis was a proud husband, father, forester,  
188 and friend.

189 (9) (a) Notwithstanding ss. 273.055 and 287.16, the  
190 department may retain, transfer, warehouse, bid, destroy, scrap,  
191 or otherwise dispose of surplus equipment and vehicles that are  
192 used for wildland firefighting.

193 (b) All money received from the disposition of state-owned  
194 equipment and vehicles that are used for wildland firefighting  
195 shall be retained by the department. Money received pursuant to  
196 this section is appropriated for and may be disbursed for the  
197 acquisition of exchange and surplus equipment used for wildland  
198 firefighting, and for all necessary operating expenditures  
199 related to such equipment, in the same fiscal year and the  
200 fiscal year following the disposition. The department shall  
201 maintain records of the accounts into which the money is  
202 deposited.

203 (10) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 252.38, the  
204 Florida Forest Service has exclusive authority to require and  
205 issue authorizations for broadcast burning and agricultural and  
206 silvicultural pile burning. An agency, commission, department,  
207 county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the  
208 state may not adopt or enforce laws, regulations, rules, or  
209 policies pertaining to broadcast burning or agricultural and  
210 silvicultural pile burning.

211 (b) The Florida Forest Service may delegate to a county,  
212 municipality, or special district its authority:

213 1. As delegated by the Department of Environmental  
214 Protection pursuant to ss. 403.061(29) and 403.081, to manage





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215 and enforce regulations pertaining to the burning of yard trash  
216 in accordance with s. 590.125(6).

217 2. To manage the open burning of land clearing debris in  
218 accordance with s. 590.125.

219 Section 36. Section 595.421, Florida Statutes, is created  
220 to read:

221 595.421 Farmers Feeding Florida Program.—There is  
222 established the Farmers Feeding Florida Program to coordinate  
223 with Feeding Florida, or its successor entity, for the  
224 acquisition, transportation, and distribution of non-Emergency  
225 Food Assistance Program fresh food products for the benefit of  
226 residents who are food insecure due to a lack of local food  
227 resources, accessibility, and affordability.

228 (1) In order to implement the program, Feeding Florida  
229 shall:

230 (a) Enter into an agreement with the department to provide,  
231 at a minimum, all of the following services:

232 1. Transportation of non-Emergency Food Assistance Program  
233 fresh food products using owned vehicles or contracted  
234 commercial vehicles.

235 2. Coordination of the purchase and pickup of food from the  
236 purchase location and delivery to the distribution location.

237 (b) Submit monthly reports to the department, beginning  
238 July 1, 2026, which include, at a minimum, all of the following:

239 1. A detailed record of the amount of food purchased,  
240 measured per pound and itemized according to its commodity type.

241 2. Food purchase locations.

242 3. Food purchase dates.

243 4. The date of delivery and locations to which the food was



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244 distributed.

245 (c) Submit quarterly reports, beginning July 1, 2026, to  
246 the chairs of the legislative appropriations committees,  
247 including all of the following information:

248 1. A detailed record of the amount of food distributed,  
249 measured per pound and itemized according to its commodity type.

250 2. The distribution locations.

251 3. An itemized list of the types of commodities  
252 distributed.

253 (2) Foods purchased by Feeding Florida through the program  
254 are restricted to charitable purposes for hunger relief and may  
255 not reenter the wholesale, retail, or secondary market.

256 (3) Feeding Florida may not, in implementing this section,  
257 allow a candidate for elective office to host a food  
258 distribution event during the period of time between the last  
259 day of the election qualifying period and the date of the  
260 election if the candidate is opposed for election or reelection  
261 at the time of the event. This subsection does not apply if the  
262 event is in response to a declared state of emergency.

263 Section 37. Present paragraph (c) of subsection (7) of  
264 section 597.004, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph  
265 (d) and amended, a new paragraph (c) is added to that  
266 subsection, and paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of that section  
267 is amended, to read:

268 597.004 Aquaculture certificate of registration.—

269 (2) RULES.—

270 (a) The department, in consultation with the Department of  
271 Environmental Protection, the water management districts,  
272 environmental groups, and representatives from the affected



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273 farming groups, shall adopt rules to:

274 1. Specify the requirement of best management practices to  
275 be implemented by holders of aquaculture certificates of  
276 registration.

277 2. Establish procedures for holders of aquaculture  
278 certificates of registration to submit the notice of intent to  
279 comply with best management practices.

280 3. Establish schedules for implementation of best  
281 management practices, and of interim measures that can be taken  
282 prior to adoption of best management practices. Interim measures  
283 may include the continuation of regulatory requirements in  
284 effect on June 30, 1998.

285 4. Establish a system to assure the implementation of best  
286 management practices, including recordkeeping requirements.

287 5. Require any facility that cultures *Micropterus salmoides*  
288 ~~floridanus~~ to maintain stock acquisition documentation or  
289 records of genetic testing.

290 (7) REGISTRATION AND RENEWALS.—

291 (c) The department may not renew a certificate of  
292 registration for a facility that is not compliant with this  
293 section unless documentation of corrective action is provided  
294 with the renewal application.

295 (d)(e) A Any person whose certificate of registration has  
296 been revoked or suspended must reapply to the department for  
297 certification. A person, a company, or an entity, or a principal  
298 of a company or an entity whose certificate of registration has  
299 been revoked, may not reapply for a period of 3 years.

300 Section 38. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section  
301 597.010, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:



302 597.010 Shellfish regulation; leases.-  
303 (5) LEASES IN PERPETUITY; RENT.-  
304 (a) All leases issued previously under ~~the provisions of s.~~  
305 379.2525 shall be enforced under the authority of this chapter,  
306 notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, and shall  
307 continue in perpetuity under such restrictions as stated in the  
308 lease agreement. The annual rental fee charged for all leases  
309 shall consist of the minimum rate of \$15 per acre, or any  
310 fraction of an acre, per year and may ~~shall~~ be adjusted on  
311 January 1, 1995, and every 5 years thereafter, based on the 5-  
312 year average change in the Consumer Price Index. Rent must ~~shall~~  
313 be paid in advance of January 1 of each year or, in the case of  
314 a new lease, at the time of signing, regardless of who holds the  
315 lease.

316 Section 39. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (1) of  
317 section 599.012, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

318 599.012 Florida Wine Trust Fund; creation.-

319 (1) There is established the Florida Wine Trust Fund within  
320 the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The  
321 department shall use the moneys deposited in the trust fund  
322 pursuant to subsection (2) to do all the following:

323 (b) Promote wine ~~viticulture~~ products manufactured from  
324 products grown in the state.

325 (c) Provide grants for wine and viticultural research.

326 Section 40. Subsection (3) of section 601.13, Florida  
327 Statutes, is amended to read:

328 601.13 Citrus research; administration by Department of  
329 Citrus; appropriation.-

330 (3) An entity that solicits research proposals and awards



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331 funding for those proposals expending funds received from the  
332 State Treasury on citrus production research conducted pursuant  
333 to chapter 573, as recommended by the Citrus Research and Field  
334 Trial Development Foundation, Inc., or conducted through  
335 contract with the department shall deliver a report that  
336 includes all of the following information to the commission  
337 biannually and at the request of the commission:

- 338 (a) Project plans selected for funding.
- 339 (b) The financial status of the projects.
- 340 (c) Current findings of the funded research.
- 341 (d) Availability of citrus products or application of  
342 growers' practices found through funded research.
- 343 (e) The status of the commercialization process of such  
344 products or practices.

345 Section 41. (1) The Citrus Research and Development  
346 Foundation, Inc., the nonprofit corporation established in s.  
347 573.112(7), Florida Statutes, is merged into the Citrus Research  
348 and Field Trial Foundation, Inc.

349 (2) The Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc.,  
350 must enter into a plan with the Citrus Research and Field Trial  
351 Foundation, Inc., for the merger. Such merger must be completed  
352 by October 1, 2026. The merger is subject to chapter 617,  
353 Florida Statutes, related to the merger of nonprofit  
354 corporations.

355 (3) Any funds held in trust which were donated to or earned  
356 by the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc., shall  
357 be transferred to the Citrus Research and Field Trial  
358 Foundation, Inc., and shall be used for the original purposes of  
359 the funds.



360       (4) The transfer of any program, activity, duty, or  
361 function under this act includes the transfer of any records and  
362 unexpected balances of appropriations, allocations, or other  
363 funds related to such program, activity, duty, or function.  
364 Except as otherwise provided by law, the Citrus Research and  
365 Field Trial Foundation, Inc., shall become the custodian of any  
366 property of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation,  
367 Inc., on the date specified in the plan of merger or October 1,  
368 2026, whichever occurs first.

369  
370 ===== T I T L E   A M E N D M E N T =====

371 And the title is amended as follows:

372       Delete lines 138 - 169

373 and insert:

374       s. 573.112, F.S.; renaming the Citrus Research and  
375       Development Foundation, Inc., as the Citrus Research  
376       and Field Trial Foundation, Inc.; establishing the  
377       Citrus Research and Field Trial Foundation, Inc., as a  
378       direct-support organization of the Department of  
379       Agriculture and Consumer Services; revising provisions  
380       relating to the membership; amending s. 581.031, F.S.;  
381       conforming a provision to changes made by the act;  
382       amending s. 583.01, F.S.; revising the definition of  
383       the term "dealer"; amending s. 590.02, F.S.; revising  
384       the Florida Forest Service's powers, authority, and  
385       duties; authorizing the Florida Forest Service to  
386       manage the Welaka Training Center; conforming  
387       provisions to changes made by the act; authorizing the  
388       Withlacoochee and Welaka Training Centers to assess



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389 certain fees as determined by the Florida Forest  
390 Service, regardless of where certain training occurs;  
391 renaming the Bonifay Forestry Station as the John  
392 Michael Mathis Forestry Station to honor the late John  
393 Michael Mathis; creating s. 595.421, F.S.;

394 establishing the Farmers Feeding Florida Program for  
395 specified purposes; requiring Feeding Florida to take  
396 certain actions to implement the program; prohibiting  
397 the foods purchased by Feeding Florida through such  
398 program from reentering the wholesale, retail, or  
399 secondary market; prohibiting Feeding Florida from  
400 allowing a candidate for elective office to host a  
401 food distribution event during a specified timeframe;  
402 providing applicability; amending s. 597.004, F.S.;

403 making a technical change; prohibiting the Department  
404 of Agriculture and Consumer Services from renewing a  
405 certificate of registration for a noncompliant  
406 facility unless certain documentation is provided with  
407 the renewal application; prohibiting entities whose  
408 certificate of registration has been revoked from  
409 reapplying for a specified period of time; amending s.  
410 597.010, F.S.; authorizing, rather than requiring, the  
411 periodic adjustment of the annual rental fee charged  
412 for certain leases; amending s. 599.012, F.S.; making  
413 technical changes; amending s. 601.13, F.S.; renaming  
414 the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc.,  
415 as the Citrus Research and Field Trial Foundation,  
416 Inc.; providing for the merger and transfer of the  
417 Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc., to



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418 the Citrus Research and Field Trial Foundation, Inc.;

419 requiring the completion of the merger by a specified

420 date; providing that the merger is subject to

421 specified provisions; providing for the transfer of

422 funds; providing for the transfer of any program,

423 activity, duty, or function; establishing the Citrus

424 Research and Field Trial Foundation, Inc., as the

425 custodian of any property of the Citrus Research and

426 Development Foundation, Inc.; amending s. 616.001,

427 F.S.; revising