

H 5-A — Agriculture/H 981 New Effective Date

by Representative Grimsley

This joint resolution establishes a new effective date of November 17, 2010 for CS/CS/CS/HB 981 which was passed by both houses of the Legislature during the 2010 Regular Session. Pursuant to Section 9, Article III of the State Constitution, the effective date of a law passed over the veto of the governor shall take effect on the sixtieth day after adjournment sine die of the session in which the veto is overridden, on a later date fixed in the law, or on a date fixed by resolution passed by both houses of the legislature.

CS/CSCS/HB 981 prohibits the denial of an agricultural classification on land if the only changed circumstance is that the land has been offered for sale, and applies this prohibition retroactively to all parcels for which a final court order has not been entered. The bill specifies an assessment methodology for structures or improvements used for horticulture production which provide shade and shelter and improve water quality or water conservation as designated by interim measures or best management practices.

The bill authorizes the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to enter into agreements with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to develop a permitting process that allows the DEP to regulate pesticides applied to waters of the state in a way that satisfies the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Eliminations Program in accordance with the federal Clean Water Act.

The bill provides that the Citrus and Research Development Foundation, Inc., serve as the advisory council for a citrus research marketing order. The box assessment for citrus fruit shall not exceed the amount included in the order.

The bill requires the assessment placed on agricultural commodities be deposited into the appropriate trust fund rather than the General Inspection Trust Fund within the DACS.

These provisions became law without the Governor's signature and take effect November 17, 2010.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 120-0