

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

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

Prepared By: Agriculture Committee

BILL: CS/SB 994

INTRODUCER: Agriculture Committee and Senators Smith and Alexander

SUBJECT: Citrus Canker

DATE: March 15, 2006

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Akhavein</u>	<u>Poole</u>	<u>AG</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>DS</u>	<u> </u>
3.	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>TA</u>	<u> </u>
4.	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>GA</u>	<u> </u>
5.	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>WM</u>	<u> </u>
6.	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>RC</u>	<u> </u>

I. Summary:

This committee substitute replaces the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' (department) goal of eradicating citrus canker with goals relating to management of the disease. It deletes obsolete provisions and requires the department to adopt rules regarding the conditions under which citrus plants can be grown, moved, and planted as necessary to control or prevent the dissemination of citrus canker.

This committee substitute substantially amends section 581.184 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Citrus production in the United States has been an important part of our rich and abundant agricultural heritage dating back to the introduction of citrus into St. Augustine, Florida in the 1500s. Despite many challenges over the years from invasive pests and diseases, in Florida alone, commercial citrus is a nine billion dollar a year industry with some 750,000 acres in production.

In recent years, commercial citrus production in Florida has been at the forefront of many of the issues that face United States citrus production. Weather events that occurred within the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons, coupled with the introduction and spread of citrus canker and citrus greening, have resulted in a unique combination of impacts. Despite a ten-year effort to eliminate citrus canker, the combination of program delays from legal challenges to the eradication program and unprecedented hurricane activities has allowed the disease to spread to the point that eradication is no longer considered possible by the United States Department of Agriculture. This situation has dictated the need to look at approaches other than eradication to help protect citrus production and mitigate the impact of diseases.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1. Amends s. 581.184, F.S., to revise the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' (department) rulemaking authority concerning citrus canker. Replaces the department's goal relating to eradication of citrus canker with goals relating to disease management. Deletes the terms "infected or infested," "exposed to infection," and "exposed."

Deletes the following duties of the department:

- All infected citrus trees and all citrus trees exposed to infection shall be removed and destroyed.
- Exposed and infected trees may be destroyed by chipping.
- Property owners in which the trees are located shall be provided with an immediate final order, additional information concerning the physical location of the infected tree, and a diagnostic report on the infected tree.

Requires the department to adopt rules regarding the conditions under which citrus plants can be grown, moved, and planted as necessary to control or prevent the dissemination of citrus canker. Deletes obsolete provisions relating to the publication of guidelines for citrus canker decontamination.

Section 2. Provides that this act shall take effect July 1, 2006.

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:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

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

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

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