

Date of Hearing: March 29, 2023

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Robert Rivas, Chair
AB 239 (Wilson) – As Amended March 8, 2023

SUBJECT: Avocado oil: regulations: standards of identity

SUMMARY: This bill requires the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), no later than January 1, 2025; promulgate regulations to adopt standards of identity for avocado oil, including, the quality and purity of the oil, requirements for labeling and packaging, and a method of measurement and analysis to ensure these standards are met.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes fruit, nut, and vegetable standards and requires CDFA and county agricultural commissioners to enforce the standards. *Food and Agriculture Code 42501 – 49021*
- 2) Sets standards for olive oil. *Health and Safety Code 112875 - 112880*

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: Avocado oil is an edible oil extracted from the pulp of avocados. It is used as an edible oil both raw and for cooking. The global avocado oil market size reached US\$550.7 million in 2022. The market has been driven by the growing perception of the nutritional and health benefits associated with avocado oil. California has a small, but potentially growing avocado oil production.

A study performed at the University of California, Davis in 2020 determined that a majority of the domestic and imported avocado oil sold in the US is rancid before its expiration date or is adulterated with other oils. In some cases, the researchers found that bottles labeled as “pure” or “extra virgin” avocado oil contained nearly 100% soybean oil. Avocado oil, unlike olive oils, does not have a set of California standards.

Olive oil in California undergoes mandatory testing through the Olive Oil Commission of California. Under this program a designated number of olive oil samples are collected by the CDFA. Then, these samples are sent to accredited laboratories for analysis. The verified grade these samples receive must be reflected on product labels for CA olive oil.

This bill will require CDFA to help develop standards for avocado oil, much like California’s standards for olive oil.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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