

Date of Hearing: April 19, 2023

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Robert Rivas, Chair
AB 1583 (Committee on Agriculture) – As Introduced February 17, 2023

SUBJECT: California Seed Law: subventions: sunset extension

SUMMARY: This bill extends the California Seed Law (CSL) Subvention program until July 1, 2027 and repeals, by January 1, 2031, the CSL Subvention program unless the legislature takes action to extend the program.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) CSL regulates agricultural or vegetable seed, as specified, within the state, as well as the investigation and prosecution, as specified. *Food and Agriculture code (FAC) 52281 – 52289*
- 2) Provides that the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), county agricultural commissioners (CAC), and their qualified representatives enforce CSL. *FAC 52281 – 52289*
- 3) Establishes a CSL subvention program under which requires CDFA to annually apportion \$120,000, in aggregate, among counties that choose to participate in the subvention program as specified. *FAC 52323-4*
- 4) Makes the CSL subvention program inoperative on July 1, 2024, except as specified, and all provisions relating to the CSL subvention program are repealed on January 1, 2028. *FAC 52325*

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: CSL provides for an optional subvention program under which a county may enter into a cooperative agreement with the secretary of CDFA to receive an annual apportionment of funds from the secretary for maintaining a statewide compliance level on all seed within the county. Under those provisions, a county with no registered seed labelers may annually receive \$100, at the discretion of the secretary of CDFA and upon recommendation of the Seed Advisory Board, and a county with registered seed labeler operations may annually receive a subvention based on enforcement activity generated by the registered seed labeler operations within the county.

Extension of the operative dates or sunsets will permit the continued allocation of industry-derived subvention funds to various counties for the enforcement of CSL. These payments provide CAC, on behalf CDFA, the ability to perform local seed inspection and enforcement services to ensure that seed sold in California is properly and accurately identified on the product label. Without this subvention, it is unlikely that CSL would be enforced in a cost-effective manner.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Victor Francovich / AGRI. / (916) 319-2084