

Date of Hearing: January 14, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Esmeralda Soria, Chair
AB 52 (Aguiar-Curry) – As Amended January 8, 2026

SUBJECT: Farmer equity: advisory committees

SUMMARY: This bill would authorize the Secretary of Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to establish 2 advisory committees, known as the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Producer Advisory Committee and the Small-Scale Producer (SSP) Advisory Committee, for the purpose of advising the secretary and CDFA with respect to their responsibilities under the Farmer Equity Act of 2017. Specifically, *this bill*:

- 1) Would authorize the Secretary of CDFA to establish 2 advisory committees, known as the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Producer Advisory Committee and the Small-Scale Producer (SSP) Advisory Committee, for the purpose of advising the secretary and CDFA with respect to their responsibilities under the Farmer Equity Act of 2017.
- 2) Would authorize the advisory committees to advise the secretary on programs, policies, education, outreach, technical assistance, and general needs for small-scale producers, medium-scale producers, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (SDFRs) in California.
- 3) Would require the members of the advisory committees to be small-scale or medium-scale SDFR, as provided.

EXISTING LAW: The Farmer Equity Act of 2017, requires CDFA to ensure the inclusion of socially disadvantaged SDFRs, as defined, in the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of food and agriculture laws, regulations, and policies and programs, as specified.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: Within CDFA, there is a BIPOC Producer Advisory Committee and a SSP Advisory. The California BIPOC Producer Advisory Committee's purpose is to advise the Secretary on matters pertaining to the implementation of the Farmer Equity Act, and recommendations contained within the Farmer Equity Report, including all efforts to ensure socially disadvantaged producers and ranchers are better served through CDFA's programs, policies, and communications.

The California SSP Advisory Committee advises the Secretary and State Board on matters pertaining to small-scale and medium scale producers in California and programs, research, technology, workforce development practices and equity issues that will ensure a platform for small-scale producers to advise on CDFA programs, resources, technical assistance, and communication.

The author states the Farmer Equity Act of 2017 requires CDFA to consult with these committees and they have become an important part of implementing the Farmer Equity Act, but are not established in statute, meaning they could be dissolved if there were any changes in

administration. AB 52 seeks to establish these committees in statute so that they can continue to advise CDFA based on their needs and lived experiences.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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