

Date of Hearing: June 29, 2022

**ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**  
Robert Rivas, Chair  
SB 1499 (Committee on Agriculture) – As Introduced April 5, 2022

**SENATE VOTE:** 35-0

**SUBJECT:** Department of Food and Agriculture: Department of Agriculture Building Fund

**SUMMARY:** This bill clarifies and conforms the existing mechanism for transferring money into the California Department of Agriculture (CDFA) Building Fund (building fund). This bill specifies the building fund appropriation would be made annually through the budget act rather than as a continuous appropriation, conforming to existing practice. Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Eliminates the requirement to repay the source of funds transferred to the CDFA Building Fund.
- 2) Eliminates the requirement to transfer unused balances to the General Fund.
- 3) Eliminates the continuous appropriation of moneys in CDFA Building Fund and, instead, makes moneys in the fund available, upon appropriation by the legislature in the annual budget act.
- 4) Removes the requirement that CDFA return the money acquired through a rental to the CDFA Building Fund.
- 5) Clarifies CDFA may lease or let excess space in a building that the department has acquired upon approval of DGS.
- 6) Eliminates the requirement for DGS to assume control of a facility that is constructed or acquired by CDFA.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Establishes DGS, which provides centralized services for the state as pertains to the acquisition, construction, and maintenance of state buildings and property.
- 2) Authorizes CDFA, with approval from DGS, to purchase or otherwise acquire real property.
- 3) Authorizes CDFA to construct and equip buildings on acquired real property and make improvements to the property, buildings, and equipment.
- 4) Establishes CDFA Building Fund.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown.

**COMMENTS:** The current practice of transferring rent payments into the building fund to help maintain department-owned properties allows CDFA to address some of its most urgent deferred maintenance needs. CDFA does not have an ongoing line-item appropriation for deferred maintenance costs and would otherwise solely rely on the annual deferred maintenance budget

act funding, which fluctuates year to year. The current practice provides some of CDFA's programs with a stable funding source for maintenance and repairs and allows for a thoughtful and planned approach to addressing some of the deferred maintenance needs.

The changes proposed by this bill are necessary to clarify existing law to ensure that CDFA's practices related to moving funding into the building fund are in line with statute. CDFA does not have a baseline budget for repairs to its facilities. CDFA has historically used the building fund to pay for repairs, which allows programs to more effectively plan for and manage their repair needs.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:****Support**

None of file.

**Opposition**

None on file.

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