

## Assembly Bill No. 460

### CHAPTER 609

An act to amend Section 481 of the Food and Agricultural Code, relating to contagious diseases.

[Approved by Governor October 6, 2005. Filed with  
Secretary of State October 6, 2005.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 460, Parra. Contagious diseases.

Existing law authorizes the Department of Agriculture, with approval of the Governor, to cooperate with the United States Department of Agriculture in order to protect the agricultural industry from pest or disease.

This bill would authorize the department to enter into agreements with the United States Department of Agriculture to carry out a program of prevention and control of avian influenza, and to adopt any regulations as necessary to implement the program.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares the following:

(a) Outbreaks of highly contagious diseases can have a devastating impact on California's poultry industry.

(b) The 2002-2003 outbreak of Exotic Newcastle Disease in Southern California cost over \$160 million and caused a forced depopulation of over 3 million birds.

(c) Avian influenza represents a significant threat to California's poultry industry and public health. Avian Influenza, or "bird flu," is extremely contagious in birds and rapidly fatal, with mortality rates approaching 100 percent.

(d) Deadly strains of avian influenza can potentially also infect humans and represents a significant public health threat.

(e) In order to prevent the spread of avian influenza, it is vital for California to take appropriate steps to reduce the chances of outbreaks and minimize and protect the public health and the state's commercial poultry industry.

SEC. 2. Section 481 of the Food and Agricultural Code is amended to read:

481. (a) The department may, with the approval of the Governor, cooperate with officials of the United States Department of Agriculture or with officials of other states in the conduct of pest or disease investigations outside of this state in the interest of the protection of the agricultural

industry of this state from any pest or disease which is not generally distributed in this state.

(b) The department may enter into cooperative agreements with the United States Department of Agriculture to carry out a program for the prevention and control of avian influenza. The department shall, in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, adopt any regulations necessary to implement program requirements set out in the agreement.