

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 222**

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**Introduced by Committee on Agriculture (Galgiani (Chair), Valadao (Vice Chair), Bill Berryhill, Hill, Ma, Mendoza, Olsen, Perea, and Yamada)**

February 1, 2011

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An act to amend Sections 221.1 and 492 of the Food and Agricultural Code, relating to agriculture.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 222, as introduced, Committee on Agriculture. Food and Agriculture Fund: Food Biotechnology Task Force: reporting.

Existing law establishes the Department of Food and Agriculture Fund, a continuously appropriated fund used for specified purposes relating to enforcement of various provisions of law relating to various agriculture programs. Notwithstanding those provisions, existing law requires the Department of Food and Agriculture to establish all permanent positions with the Controller's office pursuant to standard state administrative practices, and to report to the chairs of the fiscal committees of the Legislature, no later than January 10, 2005, on the positions established and funded, as specified.

Existing law also establishes the Food Biotechnology Task Force and authorizes the task force to request particular agencies to lead the effort to evaluate various factors related to food biotechnology. Existing law requires the task force to report the issues studied, findings, basis for their findings, and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature by January 1, 2003.

This bill would delete the obsolete reporting requirements from these provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 221.1 of the Food and Agricultural Code  
2 is amended to read:  
3 221.1. ~~(a) Notwithstanding Section 221, the department shall~~  
4 establish all permanent positions with the Controller’s office,  
5 pursuant to standard state administrative practices.  
6 ~~(b) The department shall report to the chairs of the fiscal~~  
7 ~~committees of the Legislature and to the Legislative Analyst’s~~  
8 ~~office on or before January 10, 2005, on the positions established~~  
9 ~~pursuant to subdivision (a) that have been funded by the~~  
10 ~~department’s general authority. The report shall include a~~  
11 ~~description of the positions by program, classification, and source~~  
12 ~~of funding, as well as a complete description of the workload for~~  
13 ~~the positions.~~  
14 SEC. 2. Section 492 of the Food and Agricultural Code is  
15 amended to read:  
16 492. (a) The Legislature hereby creates the Food  
17 Biotechnology Task Force. The task force shall be cochaired by  
18 the Secretary of California Health and Human Services, and the  
19 Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture.  
20 The task force shall consult with appropriate state agencies and  
21 the University of California. The Department of Food and  
22 Agriculture shall be the lead agency.  
23 (b) An advisory committee shall be appointed by the task force  
24 to provide input on issues reviewed by the task force. The advisory  
25 committee shall consist of representatives from consumer groups,  
26 environmental organizations, farmers, ranchers, representatives  
27 from the biotechnology industry, researchers, organic farmers,  
28 food processors, retailers, and others with interests in the issues  
29 surrounding biotechnology.  
30 (c) The Department of Food and Agriculture shall make funds  
31 available to other agencies to accomplish the purposes of this  
32 article and shall contract, where appropriate, with the California  
33 Council on Science and Technology, the University of California,  
34 or other entities to review issues evaluated by the task force or  
35 support activities of the advisory committee.

1 (d) The task force may request particular agencies to lead the  
2 effort to evaluate various factors related to food biotechnology.  
3 As funding becomes available, the task force shall evaluate factors  
4 including all of the following:

5 (1) Definition and categorization of food biotechnology and  
6 production processes.

7 (2) Scientific literature on the subject, and a characterization of  
8 information resources readily available to consumers.

9 (3) Issues related to domestic and international marketing of  
10 biotechnology foods such as the handling, processing,  
11 manufacturing, distribution, labeling, and marketing of these  
12 products.

13 (4) Potential benefits and impacts to human health, the state's  
14 economy, and the environment accruing from food biotechnology.

15 (5) Existing federal and state evaluation and oversight  
16 procedures.

17 ~~(e) The task force shall report issues studied, findings, basis for~~  
18 ~~their findings, and recommendations to the Governor and the~~  
19 ~~Legislature by January 1, 2003.~~

20 (f)

21 (e) An initial sum of one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars  
22 (\$125,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund for  
23 disbursement to the Department of Food and Agriculture. It is the  
24 intent of the Legislature to make further funds available to  
25 accomplish the purposes contained in this article.

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