

Introduced by Senator Rubio

February 22, 2012

An act to amend Sections 52256.5, 52288, and 52452 of the Food and Agricultural Code, relating to seed.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1187, as introduced, Rubio. California Seed Law.

Existing law, the California Seed Law, regulates seed sold in California, and requires each container of seed that is sold within this state for sowing purposes to be labeled, unless the sale is an occasional sale of seed grain by the producer of the seed grain to his neighbor for use by the purchaser within the county of production. Existing law defines "person" for purposes of that law to mean an individual, partnership, trust association, cooperative association, or any other business unit or organization.

This bill would clarify that definition of "person" to include corporations. The bill would also clarify the term "neighbor" for purposes of the labeling requirements specified above means a person who lives in close proximity to another. The bill would revise a statement of legislative intent to include ensuring that the amount of seed represented on a tag or label is properly identified.

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 52256.5 of the Food and Agricultural
- 2 Code is amended to read:

1 52256.5. “Person” also means any individual, partnership,
 2 *corporation*, trust association, cooperative association, or any other
 3 business unit or organization.

4 SEC. 2. Section 52288 of the Food and Agricultural Code is
 5 amended to read:

6 52288. The Legislature hereby declares that it is the intent of
 7 this chapter to enable the seed industry, with the aid of the state,
 8 to ensure that seed purchased by the consumer-buyer is properly
 9 identified and of the quality *and amount* represented on the tag or
 10 label. The Legislature further declares that the success of
 11 agriculture and the seed industry in this state depends upon the
 12 continued commitment to ~~industry-funded~~ *industry-funded* research
 13 in order to improve the quality and variety of seed available to the
 14 consumer-buyer.

15 SEC. 3. Section 52452 of the Food and Agricultural Code is
 16 amended to read:

17 52452. (a) Except as otherwise provided in Section 52454,
 18 each container of agricultural seed ~~which~~ *that* is for sale or sold
 19 within this state for sowing purposes, unless the sale is an
 20 occasional sale of seed grain by the producer of the seed grain to
 21 his neighbor for use by the purchaser within the county of
 22 production, shall bear upon it or have attached to it in a
 23 conspicuous place a plainly written or printed label or tag in the
 24 English language, ~~which gives~~ *that includes* all of the following
 25 information:

26 ~~(a) Commonly~~

27 (1) *The commonly* accepted name of the kind, kind and variety,
 28 or kind and type of each agricultural seed component in excess of
 29 5 percent of the whole, and the percentage by weight of each. If
 30 the aggregate of agricultural seed components, each present in an
 31 amount not exceeding 5 percent of the whole, exceeds 10 percent
 32 of the whole, each component in excess of 1 percent of the whole
 33 shall be named together with the percentage by weight of each. If
 34 more than one component is required to be named, the names of
 35 all components shall be shown in letters of the same type and size.

36 ~~(b) Lot~~

37 (2) *The lot* number or other lot identification.

38 ~~(c) Percentage~~

39 (3) *The percentage* by weight of all weed seeds.

40 ~~(d) The~~

- 1 (4) *The name and approximate number of each kind of restricted*
2 *noxious weed seed per pound.*
- 3 ~~(e) Percentage~~
- 4 (5) *The percentage by weight of any agricultural seed except*
5 *that which is required to be named on the label.*
- 6 ~~(f) Percentage~~
- 7 (6) *The percentage by weight of inert matter. If a percentage*
8 *by weight is required to be shown by any provision of this section*
9 ~~*such, that*~~ *percentage shall be exclusive of any substance* ~~*which*~~
10 *that is added to the seed as a coating and shown on the label as*
11 *such.*
- 12 ~~(g) For~~
- 13 (7) *For each agricultural seed; in excess of 5 percent of the*
14 *whole, the percentage of germination; exclusive of hard seed; the*
15 *percentage of hard seed, if present; and the calendar month and*
16 *year the test was completed to determine* ~~*such the*~~ *percentages.*
17 *Following the statement of* ~~*such those*~~ *percentages, the additional*
18 *statement “total germination and hard seed” may be stated* ~~*as such,*~~
19 ~~*if desired.*~~
- 20 ~~(h) Name~~
- 21 (8) *The name and address of the person* ~~*that*~~ *who labeled the*
22 *seed, or of the person* ~~*that*~~ *who sells the seed within this state.*
- 23 (b) *All determinations of noxious weed seeds are subject to*
24 *tolerances and methods of determination* ~~*which are*~~ *prescribed in*
25 *the regulations* ~~*which*~~ *that are adopted pursuant to this chapter.*
- 26 (c) *For purposes of this section “neighbor” means a person*
27 *who lives in close proximity to another.*