

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2714

Introduced by Assembly Member Cooper
(Coauthor: Senator Wolk)

February 19, 2016

An act relating to pest control, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2714, as introduced, Cooper. Pest control: Pierce's disease: funding.

Existing law establishes the Pierce's Disease Control Program in the Department of Food and Agriculture and the Pierce's Disease Management Account in the Department of Food and Agriculture Fund.

This bill would appropriate an unspecified amount from the General Fund to the Pierce's Disease Management Account in the Department of Food and Agriculture Fund. The bill would also state various findings and declarations of the Legislature relating to, among other things, Pierce's disease, the California wine industry, and funding the Pierce's Disease Control Program.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) The California wine industry has an annual economic impact
- 4 of more than sixty billion dollars (\$60,000,000,000) on the state's

1 economy and produces the number one finished agricultural
2 product in the state.

3 (b) The California wine industry creates more than 200,000
4 jobs, billions in secondary economic activity, preserves agricultural
5 land, open space, and family farms, is a major contributor to the
6 economic vitality of the state, and provides for the overall
7 enhancement of the California lifestyle.

8 (c) However, California winegrape growing and wine production
9 are under attack by a number of pests and diseases, most of which
10 are invasive to California, including the glassy-winged sharpshooter
11 which is a vector of Pierce’s disease, grapevine leafroll disease,
12 red blotch disease, mealybugs, brown marmorated stink bugs, and
13 Virginia creeper leafhoppers.

14 (d) Damage caused by these pests and diseases includes lost
15 product, decreased production, lower crop yield, crop damage, and
16 higher costs on growers generally, resulting in hundreds of millions
17 in lost revenue annually.

18 (e) Recognizing the importance of the California wine industry
19 and the potential for widespread destruction from Pierce’s disease,
20 the Legislature created a task force in 1999 that identified the need
21 to create a statewide eradication and control program for Pierce’s
22 disease and the glassy-winged sharpshooter, and in 2000 created
23 the Pierce’s Disease Control Program within the Department of
24 Food and Agriculture and established a coordinating fund to
25 support research and control efforts.

26 (f) Additionally, the Legislature created the Pierce’s Disease
27 and Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board and later extended the
28 authority of the board to designate other pests and diseases to
29 qualify for research and outreach funding.

30 (g) Historically, the Pierce’s Disease Control Program has been
31 funded by federal, state, and industry sources, including an industry
32 assessment fee, appropriations through the United States
33 Department of Agriculture, and the General Fund.

34 (h) From 1999 through 2011, the Pierce’s Disease Control
35 Program was seen as a model for how state, federal, and industry
36 funds could be used in collaboration to tackle issues important to
37 agriculture.

38 (i) For this 12-year period, the state contributed a total of
39 \$66,966,034, averaging nearly \$5.6 million annually, with a

1 maximum contribution of \$9.4 million in 2001–02, and a minimum
2 \$3.7 million contribution in 2009–10.

3 (j) However, in 2011–12 the economic downturn forced the
4 state to cease its investment in the Pierce’s Disease Control
5 Program, and since this time, the program has been operating solely
6 on industry and federal funds.

7 (k) While the Pierce’s Disease Control Program is generating
8 positive results without state funding, programs have been cut,
9 and industry funding once used solely for research to develop
10 long-term solutions is now being used to fund surveillance and
11 control activities.

12 (l) As a result, certain aspects of the program focused on
13 preventing the spread and establishment of the glassy-winged
14 sharpshooter and the spread of Pierce’s disease have been
15 diminished, undermining the program’s effectiveness.

16 (m) Recent years have also seen dramatic increases in the
17 introduction and spread of invasive pests and diseases affecting
18 agriculture and communities, which many scientists attribute to
19 the effects of climate change and the global transport of goods and
20 people.

21 (n) In light of increased threats and inadequate resources, the
22 Pierce’s Disease Control Program and other pest and disease
23 programs require additional funding to prevent movement and
24 establishment of pests throughout California.

25 (o) With an economic recovery well under way, now is the time
26 to recommit state funding and support to combat Pierce’s disease
27 and other pests and diseases that affect winegrape production in
28 the state.

29 SEC. 2. The sum of ____ dollars (\$____) is hereby appropriated
30 from the General Fund to the Pierce’s Disease Management
31 Account in the Department of Food and Agriculture Fund, which
32 was created pursuant to Section 6046 of the Food and Agricultural
33 Code.

O