

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 24, 1998

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 9, 1998

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1997-98 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1689

Introduced by Assembly Member Keeley

January 20, 1998

An act relating to forest resources, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1689, as amended, Keeley. Forest resources: report: pine pitch canker.

Existing law requires the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to implement and administer various forest resource management programs.

This bill would require the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, not later than January 10, 1999, to prepare and submit to the Legislature a report on the fungus known as "pine pitch canker" that includes a plan for controlling and eradicating the fungus, as specified.

The bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: no. 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
2 the following:

3 (a) In October 1997, the Department of Forestry and
4 Fire Protection issued a report on efforts to control the
5 spread of, and minimize the damage caused by, the
6 fungus known as “pine pitch canker.” The report
7 concluded that the state’s management policy should
8 include measures intended to slow the spread of the
9 fungus and reduce its impact on Monterey pine stands.

10 (b) The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
11 cited all of the following factors to support its conclusions
12 regarding the spread of pine pitch canker:

13 (1) Monterey pine is highly susceptible and all native
14 stands of the pine are threatened. In addition, Douglas fir
15 and eight other pine species are known to be susceptible
16 to the fungus.

17 (2) Complete eradication of the fungus is not a viable
18 option because there are no cures or other completely
19 effective preventative measures.

20 (3) Insect vectors probably spread the fungus locally,
21 and humans are the likely carriers for the long distance
22 spread of the disease.

23 (4) Proper recognition, handling and disposal of
24 diseased material will help prevent the spread of new
25 infestations, and will reduce the localized spread of the
26 fungus.

27 SEC. 2. (a) Notwithstanding Section ~~75505.5~~ 7550.5
28 of the Government Code, not later than January 10, 1999,
29 the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection shall
30 prepare and submit to the Legislature a report on the
31 fungus known as “pine pitch canker” that contains all of
32 the following:

33 (1) A plan for preventing the transportation of
34 infected plant material from infested to uninfested areas
35 that contains relevant information on nursery stock,
36 Christmas trees, firewood, logs, wood chips, foliage,
37 cones, and seeds.



1 (2) A plan for monitoring plots of land to assess the
2 present and future distribution of pine pitch canker.

3 (3) A plan for conducting a broad-based public
4 education program on methods of controlling the fungus.

5 (4) A description of the state and local efforts to
6 minimize the spread of the fungus.

7 (5) A five-year funding plan for controlling the fungus
8 that includes a description of funding alternatives that
9 could be used to finance the project through either the
10 natural community *conservation* planning process, or
11 other alternatives.

12 (b) The department shall use funds allocated to the
13 department for pest management pursuant to Item
14 3540-001-001 of the Budget Act of 1998 to cover the costs
15 of preparing the report.

16 SEC. 3. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the
17 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or
18 safety within the meaning of Article IV of the
19 Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts
20 constituting the necessity are:

21 In order to minimize the damage to the state's forests
22 caused by the fungus known as "pine pitch canker" by
23 requiring the Department of Forestry and Fire
24 Protection to prepare and submit to the Legislature a
25 report that includes a plan for controlling and eradicating
26 the fungus, at the earliest possible time, it is necessary that
27 this act take effect immediately.

