

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2750

Introduced by Assembly Member Block

February 19, 2010

An act to amend Section 492 of the Food and Agricultural Code, relating to biotechnology.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2750, as introduced, Block. Food Biotechnology Task Force.

Existing law establishes the Food Biotechnology Task Force and charges it with various responsibilities.

This bill would make a technical, nonsubstantive change to those 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 492 of the Food and Agricultural Code
2 is amended to read:
3 492. (a) The Legislature hereby creates the Food
4 Biotechnology Task Force. The task force shall be cochaired by
5 the Secretary of California Health and Human Services, and the
6 Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture.
7 The task force shall consult with appropriate state agencies and
8 *with* the University of California. The Department of Food and
9 Agriculture shall be the lead agency.
10 (b) An advisory committee shall be appointed by the task force
11 to provide input on issues reviewed by the task force. The advisory

1 committee shall consist of representatives from consumer groups,
2 environmental organizations, farmers, ranchers, representatives
3 from the biotechnology industry, researchers, organic farmers,
4 food processors, retailers, and others with interests in the issues
5 surrounding biotechnology.

6 (c) The Department of Food and Agriculture shall make funds
7 available to other agencies to accomplish the purposes of this
8 article and shall contract, where appropriate, with the California
9 Council on Science and Technology, the University of California,
10 or other entities to review issues evaluated by the task force or
11 support activities of the advisory committee.

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

16 (1) Definition and categorization of food biotechnology and
17 production processes.

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

20 (3) Issues related to domestic and international marketing of
21 biotechnology foods such as the handling, processing,
22 manufacturing, distribution, labeling, and marketing of these
23 products.

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

26 (5) Existing federal and state evaluation and oversight
27 procedures.

28 (e) The task force shall report issues studied, findings, basis for
29 their findings, and recommendations to the Governor and the
30 Legislature by January 1, 2003.

31 (f) An initial sum of one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars
32 (\$125,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund for
33 disbursement to the Department of Food and Agriculture. It is the
34 intent of the Legislature to make further funds available to
35 accomplish the purposes contained in this article.