



## Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #135

### **Position Realignment and Elimination of Long-Term Vacancies (Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection)**

[LFB 2011-13 Budget Summary: Page 50, #3 (part); Page 62, #22]

#### **CURRENT LAW**

The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) administers: (a) the agricultural producer security [APS] program, which collects assessments on milk, grain and vegetables for payments to farmers in case purchasers of these products default; (b) a program for fruit and vegetable inspection and grading, which is conducted under authority delegated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service.

#### **GOVERNOR**

Delete \$125,600 SEG annually with 2.37 positions from the segregated agricultural producer security (APS) fund for administration of the APS program; and (b) provide \$43,300 PR annually with 0.9 position for fruit and vegetable inspection and grading.

#### **DISCUSSION POINTS**

1. The bill would delete a 0.9 SEG APS position twice, once as a long-term vacancy and again to reflect a transfer to the fruit and vegetable inspection program. However, there are only 1.47 vacancies in the APS program, and the bill would eliminate a currently filled 0.9 position. The administration has recommended that the 0.9 SEG to PR transfer be deleted from the bill to correct this error [Alternative 1].

2. The Committee could consider restoring a 0.9 SEG position to avoid a double deletion but maintain the 0.9 PR position to address anticipated workload for the fruit and vegetable inspection and grading program [Alternative 2]. DATCP requested the position to make nine 0.9

inspectors full-time. The Department indicates this change would align authorized inspector positions with expected increases in inspections at farms and food processing plants.

3. The Committee could make no change to the bill [Alternative 3]. This would eliminate a 0.9 APS SEG position that is currently filled.

**ALTERNATIVES**

1. Adopt the administration's recommended correction to delete \$43,300 PR annually with 0.9 position for fruit and vegetable inspection and restore \$51,300 SEG annually with 0.9 position for APS administration.

ALT 1	Change to Bill	
	Funding	Positions
PR	- \$86,600	- 0.90
SEG	<u>102,600</u>	<u>0.90</u>
Total	\$16,000	0.00

2. Restore \$51,300 SEG annually with 0.9 position for APS administration.

ALT 2	Change to Bill	
	Funding	Positions
SEG	\$102,600	0.90

3. Take no action. Bill provisions would be maintained deleting 2.37 positions for agricultural producer security administration and providing 0.9 fruit and vegetable inspector. (A currently filled 0.9 APS SEG position would be eliminated.)

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