



May 19, 2017

Career Technical Education/FFA:

This week Farm Bureau sent out a Farm Team Alert regarding a budget proposal in the May Revise budget that Governor Jerry Brown released last week. That proposal would eliminate \$48 million for Career Technical Education (CTE) programs, including the complete defunding of organizations like FFA. Specifically, \$15.4 million that used to flow to the Department of Education would be reallocated to Community Colleges resulting in the elimination of the following programs.

- Career Technical Student Organizations, such as FFA.
- Professional Development Activities for CTE Instructors, including agriculture teachers.
- Partnership Academy Programs, which have proven to be highly effective models for engaging students in focused learning groups centered on themes and majors of interest.
- The University of California Curriculum Institute, which assists CTE courses and programs in gaining UC/CSU recognition for admission purposes in meeting A-G course requirements.

These cuts would ultimately lead to the decimation of CTE programs.

Fortunately, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee 1 on Education rejected the proposal earlier this week. This morning we received a message from Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross which stated:

“This week I have heard from many of you about the status of the \$15.4 million allocated at the state level for career technical education and the FFA program. Please be assured, Governor Brown remains committed to ongoing funding for these programs funded through the California Department of Education. While one-time funding was used to support these programs in the current year - the Governor is committed to ongoing funding for these programs for 2017-18 and beyond. I look forward to working with you to get this done and meeting many more of the wonderful students who are the beneficiaries of these programs.”

Therefore, it appears that this proposal will be withdrawn. The proposal will be before the Assembly Budget Subcommittee 2 on Education Finance, but with the administration’s change of the position on the matter and the Senate education subcommittee rejecting the proposal it is likely that funding for CTE will be continued. If that changes, we will let you know and thank you to the 4900 Farm Team members who sent 10,118 messages to legislators and the Governor over the last several days.

Energy:

[AB 920](#) (Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, D-Napa) addresses baseload electric generation facilities (biomass and geothermal) and requires the California Public Utilities Commission to determine what types of generation resources investor owned utilities are required to procure. Publicly owned utilities would be required to

make the same assessment. Although the bill now has no specific percentage requirements for baseload generation, it will continue the discussion about the importance of addressing biomass generation in the state. Due to state costs, it was placed on suspense by the Assembly Appropriations Committee and will be voted on May 26. CFBF supports.

[SB 370](#) (Robert M. Hertzberg, D-Van Nuys) addresses efficiency improvements for agricultural equipment and industrial facilities. It seeks to provide certainty about measurement of the performance of the improvements that have been made, while reducing the likelihood of free-ridership to customers receiving program incentives. Language is also included such that the California Public Utilities Commission, which oversees the energy efficiency programs, will continue to focus its efforts on program administration while still providing the ability for them to engage in project-specific review when needed. It was placed on suspense by the Senate Appropriations Committee due to state costs and will be voted on next week. CFBF supports.

Environment:

[SB 602](#) (Ben Allen, D-Santa Monica and Scott Wiener, D- San Francisco) would require the labeling of commercially available seeds and plants sold at retail establishments that have been treated with a neonicotinoid pesticide. The label would have to clearly include the words “STATE OF CALIFORNIA SAFETY WARNING: MAY HARM BEES”. Instead of normal oversight and enforcement by the Department of Pesticide Regulation, SB 602 will make it an unfair and unlawful business act if the seeds and plants sold at retail establishments treated with neonicotinoids are not labeled. Thus, groups or individuals who oppose the use of pesticides could bring a private action against a retailer who had treated but unlabeled plants for sale. Neonicotinoids are key in the fight to stop the spread of the Asian Citrus Psyllid that transmits Huanglongbing for which there is no cure and has decimated the citrus industry in Florida, Texas, Mexico and Brazil.

Senator Allen has suggested that he might remove the private right of action from SB 602 since his Senate colleagues are not supportive of it which has delayed him bringing it up for vote on the Senate floor. But deleting the private action wording does not remove the labelling mandate, it would still exist and would remain enforceable by private citizen lawsuits. This is a ploy to get the bill off the Senate floor. Please continue to let your Senator know that this change does not nothing to remove opposition. The local contacts made by County Farm Bureaus have been very helpful and we appreciate your continued efforts. Farm Bureau opposes.

Labor

[AB 450](#) (David Chiu, D-San Francisco) forbids an employer from granting federal immigration enforcement authorities access to their place of business without a search warrant or providing employee-related records to federal immigration enforcement authorities without a subpoena. It requires an employer to provide notice to employees of known future enforcement action by a federal immigration agency, unless doing so would be prohibited by law and requires the employer to provide to employees any written notice of the findings of a federal enforcement audit or inspection, and of any actions required of the employer by the federal immigration enforcement agency. AB 450 also requires an employer to notify the Labor Commissioner of any federal immigration agency action or any action by the employer to check the work authorization documents of current employees within 24 hours, unless doing so would be prohibited by federal law. AB 450 prohibits an employer from performing any self-audit or inspection of Forms I-9 for current employees unless required by federal law. Penalties for violations would range from \$10,000 to \$25,000 per violation.

Penalties for violations would range from \$10,000 to \$25,000 per violation. AB 450 was referred to the Assembly Appropriations Suspense file on a 5-2 vote due to state costs. Next week the committee will decide whether to move AB 450 and any other bills on the Suspense file forward regardless of the costs or to hold them in committee. Farm Bureau opposes.

[AB 912](#) (Jay Obernolte, R-Big Bear Lake) would require state regulatory agencies to render assistance to regulated small businesses to facilitate compliance with the agency's regulatory requirements. AB 912 would also require regulatory agencies to reduce civil penalties based on mitigating factors including that the violation did not pose an imminent danger to health, safety, or the environment. AB 912 was referred to the Assembly Appropriations Suspense file on a 7-0 vote. Farm Bureau supports.

[AB 1008](#) (Kevin McCarty, D-Sacramento) will make it an unfair employment practice (effectively prohibit) for an employer to include a question on an employment application that inquires as to the applicant's criminal or conviction history or to make any inquiry about it until the applicant has received a conditional offer of employment. If the employer denies the applicant employment solely or partly because of the applicant's criminal or conviction history, AB 1088 requires the employer to make an individualized assessment showing that the applicant's history has a direct and adverse relationship with the duties of the job. If the employer denies the applicant employment due to the applicant's history, the employer must notify the applicant, allow the applicant to provide information to refute the employer's denial, requires the employer to consider that information, and requires the employer to notify the applicant in writing if the employer makes a final decision to deny the applicant employment. It is likely this new fair employment requirement will result in litigation as other fair employment requirements have in the past. AB 1008 was referred to the Assembly Appropriations Suspense file on a 5-2 vote. Farm Bureau opposes.