



February 9, 2018

New Bill Introductions

Taxation

Senator Bob Hertzberg (D-San Fernando) has introduced [SB 993](#) which would impose an unspecified tax on the purchases of business services in California. These tax revenues would be allocated to middle- and low-income Californians for federal tax relief and infrastructure, workforce and public education systems. The bill does not define “business services,” but does exclude health care, education, child care services and business with gross receipts of less than \$100,00/year from the tax. For more information contact Taylor Roschen at Troschen@cfbf.com

Food Purchases

Building off of a Farm Bureau sponsored measure passed last year that established a 5% state procurement preference for California grown products, Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia (D-Riverside) has introduced [AB 2106](#) which would increase that preference to 10%. Thus, if this bill were successful, as long as California grown food products were no more than 10% more than their competitors, then the state would have to choose California. For more information contact Jim Houston at Jhouston@cfbf.com

Fire Prevention Fees

Existing law suspends the authority for Cal Fire to assess a fee in a state responsibility area until January 1, 2031. Senator Tom Berryhill (R-Twane Hart) has introduced [SB 1044](#) which would eliminate this fee authority as of January 1, 2019. For more information, contact Taylor Roschen at TRsochen@cfbf.com.

Natural Resources Updates

The late season goose hunt in Northeastern California is expected to be allowed for both white and white fronted geese in the spring of 2019. The Fish and Game Commission discussed new waterfowl regulations at its meeting this week and there was no opposition expressed to the Department of Fish and Wildlife’s (DFW) proposal to create a special management zone in the Klamath Basin and allow a late season hunt for both white geese and white fronted geese on private lands. The late season is proposed to be no longer than 33 days and close no later than March 10, 2019. Farm Bureau testified in support of the proposed late season to help farmers and ranchers impacted by goose depredation in Northeastern California. DFW will also be continuing to promote the use of the SHARE program that pays and provides liability

protection to private landowners who allow the public to hunt on their property. Any questions or interest in participating in the SHARE program can be directed to Noelle Cremers.

The Fish and Game Commission formally disbanded the Predator Policy Working Group, which was formed to discuss the topic of predator management with the intentions of developing a recommendation on a new predator policy and consider how regulatory changes affect predator management. The working group developed a draft policy that was presented to the Commission at its meeting this week. The working group agreed on most of what was included in the draft policy, however there were a few areas of disagreement between animal rights representatives and others. The animal rights groups pushed strongly for the policy to prioritize non-lethal control over lethal control. Farm Bureau testified before the Commission on the importance of the policy not being used to eliminate important predator management tools. The Commission will be considering adoption of the policy at its next meeting in April. Noelle Cremers is Farm Bureau's staff on this topic.

California's trapping licensees are at risk of higher license fees. The Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) and Project Coyote petitioned the Fish and Game Commission to fully account for all costs associated with administration and enforcement of licensed trapping in California and sued last year when the Commission did not increase license fees. At the Commission meeting this week the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) presented its cost assessment of activities necessary to administer licensing of trappers. DFW estimates its costs to administer the licensing program to be \$107.34 per license and the Commission estimates its costs to be \$3.08 per license, for a total cost of \$110.42 per license. Currently DFW charges \$117 for residents, \$39.40 for resident youth, and \$579 for non-residents. CBD argues that the full cost of enforcement should be included in estimating the costs of licensing. Ultimately, CBD would like trapping licenses to be prohibitively expensive to dissuade anyone from getting a license. Farm Bureau testified on the topic to point out that our members depend on licensed trappers to assist with management of wildlife that damage crops and threaten livestock and that cost increases would harm our members. The Commission asked for additional information on the total number of licensed trappers to be presented at the April meeting, at which point it will decide whether or not to begin the process of changing the licensing fees. Contact Noelle Cremers for more information.

Tricolored blackbirds, which are currently protected as candidates under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), were discussed by the Fish and Game Commission this week. The Commission received the status review the Department of Fish and Wildlife recently completed, which analyzes the current status of the species. In the status review, DFW recommend that Tricolors be listed as threatened under CESA. The Commission is expected to make a final listing decision at its next meeting in April.

The Commission also voted unanimously to adopt another 2084 regulation, which provides liability protection for farmers who agree to delay harvest of their silage fields if they provide nesting habitat to Tricolor colonies. The adoption of the 2084 is the third time the Commission has approved the regulation, but the previous two versions were adopted as emergencies so they expired. The 2084 regulation will remain in place for the 2018 breeding season, but will no longer be in effect if Tricolors are ultimately listed as threatened under CESA. Farm Bureau testified in support of the 2084 regulation at the hearing. For more information, contact Noelle Cremers at Ncremer@cfbf.com