

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 5765

C 208 L 09
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Regarding the fruit and vegetable district fund.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development (originally sponsored by Senator Schoesler).

Senate Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development
House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources
House Committee on General Government Appropriations

Background: The Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Account contains fees collected by the Department of Agriculture to recover the costs of inspections or certifications of fruits and vegetables. These inspection fees are used to fund the Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Program and are not subject to legislative appropriation.

Horticultural pest and disease boards are formed at the county level to do control work for pests that impact commercial fruit crops. The Department of Agriculture performs surveys to detect the presence of pests but the control work is performed by the local horticultural pest and disease boards.

There is concern about the impact that the apple maggot would have on the commercial fruit crop. Funds that have been previously transferred for this purpose have been expended. Authority is sought to transfer additional funds from the Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Account to the Agricultural Local Fund for disbursement to local horticultural pest and disease boards to do work to control infestations of apple maggot so that they do not affect commercially-produced apples.

Summary: One hundred and fifty thousand dollars is transferred from the Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Account to the Plant Pest Account within the Agricultural Local Fund. The amount transferred is to be derived from fees collected from state inspections of tree fruits and used solely for activities relating to the control of *Rhagoletis pomonella* (apple maggot) in the fruit and vegetable inspection district from which the fees were collected. The transfer of funds is to occur by September 1, 2009.

Any funds unexpended by June 30, 2013, must be transferred back to the Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Account.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	46	0
House	98	0

Effective: July 26, 2009