
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Connie Leyva, Chair

2019 - 2020 Regular

Bill No: AB 320 **Hearing Date:** July 10, 2019
Author: Quirk and Mathis
Version: May 16, 2019
Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes
Consultant: Lynn Lorber

Subject: Pest control: mosquito abatement.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes in statute the California Mosquito Surveillance and Research Program at the University of California, Davis.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the Mosquito Abatement and Vector Control District Law, which authorizes the establishment of mosquito abatement and vector control districts, as specified. (Health and Safety Code § 2000 et seq)
- 2) Requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to maintain a program of vector biology and control, including providing consultation and assistance to local vector control agencies; providing surveillance of vectors and vector-borne diseases; coordinating and conducting emergency vector control; training and certifying government agency vector control technicians; and, disseminating information to the public regarding protection from vectors and vector-borne diseases. (HSC § 116110)

ANALYSIS

This bill:

- 1) Establishes in statute the California Mosquito Surveillance and Research Program to be administered by the University of California, Davis (UCD).
- 2) Requires the California Mosquito Surveillance and Research Program to perform all of the following functions:
 - a) Maintain an interactive internet website for management and dissemination of data on mosquito-borne virus and surveillance control.
 - b) Work in conjunction with local mosquito abatement and vector control districts to conduct research on arbovirus surveillance, transmission of vector-borne diseases, and mosquito ecology and control.

- c) Coordinate with the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California, DPH, local mosquito abatement and vector control districts, local governments, and other affected stakeholders to share information.
- 3) Requires the California Mosquito Surveillance and Research Program to perform the functions described above to the extent the program receives federal or state grants or private donations or grants.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) **California Vectorborne Disease Surveillance System (CalSurv).** CalSurv is a program jointly operated by UCD, DPH, and the California Mosquito and Vector Control Association (which represents more than 50 local mosquito and vector control agencies). CalSurv provides an online portal through which organizations from across the state are able to provide real-time reporting through surveillance maps of potentially dangerous mosquito risks and share solutions. This portal acts as a statewide database of California-specific vectorborne disease surveillance results and related information which is used to track mosquito migration patterns and rate of infection, and prevent the spread of mosquito borne viruses like Zika and West Nile. This bill essentially codifies CalSurv's existing functions. <https://calsurv.org/>
- 2) **Need for the bill.** According to the author, "CalSurv has monitored mosquito abundance and mosquito-borne virus activity since 2006. CalSurv is already operating as the primary resource center for DPH, university researchers, and state and local agencies to work collaboratively in order to track and prevent the spread of mosquito-borne viruses. Unfortunately, CalSurv is currently dependent on competitive grant funding, which is not guaranteed, leaving staff vulnerable to losing employment or to the abandonment of research."
- 3) **Funded in the Budget.** AB 74 (Ting, Chapter 23, 2019), the Budget Act of 2019, allocates \$204,000 to DPH payable from the Vectorborne Disease Account. As noted by the Assembly Appropriations Committee, this bill could create annual cost pressures of \$500,000 to fund current levels of administration and operations at CalSurv, and to provide annual upgrades to computer hardware. This bill conditions its requirements on the extent to which the program receives federal or state grants, private donations, or grants.
- 4) **Heard by the Senate Health Committee.** This bill was heard by the Senate Health Committee on June 26, where it passed on a 8-0 vote.
- 5) **Prior legislation.** AB 2892 (Quirk of 2018) was very similar to this bill but would have housed CalSurv within DPH. AB 2892 was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 382 (Pan, 2017) would have created the California Mosquito Surveillance and Research Program Account to fund CalSurv and research grants to help mitigate the effects of warming climates on increasing vector populations. SB 382 appropriated \$2 million to DPH. SB 382 was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SUPPORT

Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (sponsor)
Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District
Blood Centers of California
Burney Basin Mosquito Abatement District
Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District
California Special Districts Association
County Health Executives Association of California
Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District
Compton Creek Mosquito Abatement District
County of Santa Cruz – Office of the Agricultural Commissioner
Fresno Mosquito & Vector Control District
Fresno Westside Mosquito Abatement District
Greater Low Angeles County Vector Control District
Marin/Sonoma – Mosquito and Vector Control District
Orange County Mosquito & Vector Control District
Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District
San Mateo County Mosquito & Vector Control District
Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District
Sutter-Yuba Mosquito & Vector Control District
West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

OPPOSITION

None received

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