

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 257

Introduced by Assembly Member Mathis

January 23, 2019

An act to add and repeal Section 42999.2 of the Public Resources Code, relating to solid waste, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 257, as introduced, Mathis. Solid waste: woody biomass: disposal.

Existing law establishes the CalRecycle Greenhouse Gas Reduction Revolving Loan Program, administered by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, to provide loans to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases by promoting in-state development of infrastructure or other projects to reduce organic waste or process organic and other recyclable materials into new value-added products.

This bill would create a 5-year woody biomass rural county collection and disposal pilot program, to be administered by the department, consisting of awarding funding to participating counties with a total population of less than 250,000 for the purpose of conducting community collection days at which individuals can dispose of woody biomass free of charge. The bill would require a county awarded funding under the program to contract with a local biomass conversion facility to collect and dispose of the biomass in a way that results in fewer greenhouse gases emitted than if the biomass had been disposed of otherwise. The bill would appropriate \$10,000,000 from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to the department for purposes of awarding funding under the program and would authorize the department to use up to 5% of those moneys for administration of the program. The bill would

require the department to report specified program information to the Legislature after the conclusion of the program.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 42999.2 is added to the Public Resources
2 Code, to read:

3 42999.2. (a) The department shall administer, until January
4 1, 2025, a woody biomass rural county collection and disposal
5 pilot program consisting of awarding funding to rural counties for
6 the purpose of conducting community collection days at which
7 individuals can dispose of woody biomass free of charge.

8 (b) A rural county may apply to the department for funding to
9 conduct community collection days pursuant to the program. If a
10 rural county is awarded funding under the program, it shall contract
11 with a local biomass conversion facility to collect and dispose of
12 biomass disposed of at community collection days in a way that
13 results in fewer greenhouse gases emitted than if the biomass had
14 been disposed of otherwise.

15 (c) Woody biomass shall be the focus of community collection
16 days, however all biomass shall be accepted for disposal. A
17 participating rural county shall not charge or pass on any costs to
18 an individual that disposes of biomass, including woody biomass,
19 at a community collection day.

20 (d) (1) The department shall use the ten million dollars
21 (\$10,000,000) appropriated for purposes of the program to award
22 funding under the program. When awarding funding, the
23 department shall ensure that funding is available for each of the
24 five years of the program.

25 (2) The department may use up to 5 percent of the program
26 moneys for administration of the program, including fulfilling the
27 reporting requirement pursuant to subdivision (e).

28 (e) The department shall, by March 1, 2025, report to the
29 Legislature in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government
30 Code all of the following program information:

31 (1) The number of rural counties awarded funding.

32 (2) The amount of funding awarded to each participating rural
33 county.

1 (3) The amount of biomass disposed of at community collection
2 days.

3 (f) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the
4 following meanings:

5 (1) "Biomass" has the same meaning as defined in paragraph
6 (2) of subdivision (g) of Section 25143.5 of the Health and Safety
7 Code.

8 (2) "Participating rural county" means a rural county that has
9 been awarded funding under the program by the department.

10 (3) "Rural county" means a county with a total population of
11 less than 250,000.

12 (g) This section shall become inoperative on March 1, 2029,
13 and, as of January 1, 2030, is repealed.

14 SEC. 2. The sum of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) is hereby
15 appropriated from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, created
16 pursuant to Section 16428.8 of the Government Code, to the
17 Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery for purposes
18 of the woody biomass rural county collection and disposal pilot
19 program created pursuant to Section 42999.2 of the Public
20 Resources Code.

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