



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #219

Johne's Program Position (DATCP -- Trade and Consumer Protection)

[LFB 2001-03 Budget Summary: Page 101, #8]

CURRENT LAW

A Johne's program regarding the classification of herds depending on the presence of paratuberculosis (Johne's disease) went into effect on July 1, 2000. Under the program, animal owners may voluntarily choose to have their herd tested, and the herd is classified in one of four categories, based on the number of positive reactors found during testing. The herds of those who choose not to have their animals tested are placed in a category of maximum risk.

GOVERNOR

Convert 1.0 GPR agricultural resource management administrative support assistant position to a senior veterinarian specialist position to staff the Johne's disease control program.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. The position would respond to herd owners and veterinarians, review laboratory test results, issue certifications and provide on-farm review of disease control plan effectiveness. The Department estimates 2.85 positions (outside of laboratory work which is conducted by the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory) are currently working on the Johne's program, including 1.7 FTE (portions of six veterinarian positions), 0.15 FTE of managerial staff time and 1.0 project assistant. In addition, four federally funded veterinarians work on Johne's about 20% of their time under a cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture.

2. Although no funding is transferred under the bill, the administration indicates that GPR related to the deleted position was intended to be transferred to partially fund the new position.

The deleted resource management administrative support assistant position is authorized funding (salary, fringe benefits and supplies) of \$42,100 annually. The senior veterinarian specialist position would require funding of \$27,600 in 2001-02 and \$55,200 in 2002-03. Since funding required for the veterinarian position is \$14,500 less than what is currently available for the resource management position in 2001-02, the Committee may wish to delete the remaining \$14,500 GPR in 2001-02 related to the deleted position. Administration officials indicate their intent was that that no additional GPR funding be allocated to fund the ongoing costs of the veterinarian position. Thus, for 2002-03, DATCP would need to reallocate \$11,100 to fully fund the new position.

ALTERNATIVES TO BASE

1. Approve the Governor’s recommendation to convert 1.0 GPR agricultural resource management administrative support assistant position to a senior veterinarian specialist position to staff the Johne’s disease control program. (No funding would be provided for the new position and no funding would be deleted from the deleted position.)

2. Modify the Governor’s recommendation to convert 1.0 GPR agricultural resource management administrative support assistant position and associated funding of \$27,600 GPR in 2001-02 and \$42,100 in 2002-03 to a senior veterinarian specialist position to staff the Johne’s disease control program. Delete the remaining \$14,500 GPR authority in 2001-02 related to the deleted position.

Alternative 2	GPR
2001-03 FUNDING (Change to Base)	- \$14,500
<i>[Change to Bill</i>	<i>- \$14,500]</i>

3. Maintain current law.

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