

SB 244 BY SENATOR MALONE

KEYWORD AND SUMMARY AS IT LEFT THE SENATE

FARMING. Constitutional amendment to authorize legislature by law to assist certain farmers and provide funds therefor.

SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO THE SENATE BILL

1. Deletes statement of purpose.
2. Establishes the Drought Protection Trust Fund as a special treasury fund and provides for sources and use of monies in the fund and specifically authorizes the legislature to provide relative to the fund.
3. Provides that the legislature may provide for assistance to farmers who voluntarily forgo irrigating with groundwater for agricultural production rather than forgoing agricultural production.

DIGEST OF THE SENATE BILL AS IT LEFT THE SENATE

Proposed constitutional amendment authorizes the legislature by law to establish and implement one or more programs to assist farmers who voluntarily forgo agricultural production for the purpose of protecting, conserving, or replenishing groundwater supply during periods of drought or to enhance and develop surface water resources for use by farmers for irrigation purposes, or both. Further authorizes the legislature by law to provide for and maintain a permanent trust fund to provide revenue to assist eligible farmers in the form of loans, grants, or other subsidies and to provide revenue for the development and enhancement of surface water resources.

Specifies submission of the amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held on November 5, 2002.

(Adds Const. Art. VII, §10.11)

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