

**SB 986 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire**

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**Prepared By:** Alexa Piscanio, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 2/20

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure appropriates \$1,200,000 to the Department of Agriculture for the brand inspection program. Declares an emergency, effective upon passage.

Fiscal impact: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

Revenue impact: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Department of Agriculture (ODA) houses a Brand Inspection (also known as ownership inspection) Program that is required for cattle, whether or not they are branded, to verify ownership in specific instances, such as when there is a change of ownership, before shipment out of state, before sale at auction, before slaughter, and for annual cattle inspection. Brand Inspection consists of ODA's examination of brands, tags, breed, flesh marks, coloring, sex, age, or other distinguishing characteristics of livestock, as well as documents and other evidence of ownership that ultimately results in the issuance or refusal to issue a brand inspection certificate. If livestock owners elect to brand their cattle or horses, the brand must be registered with ODA. Brand inspection fees are currently \$1.35 per head, paid to ODA.