

Assembly Bill 2509

Prioritize “Integrated Pest Management” in Invasive Species Management Assembly Member Ash Kalra

SUMMARY

Assembly Bill (AB) 2509 would establish definitions for “integrated pest management” (IPM) and “invasive species.” It would also require the state’s Invasive Species Council to prioritize the principles of IPM in all of its activities. Together, these provisions will make it easier to legislate and implement healthy pest management practices.

BACKGROUND

In 2009, the Invasive Species Council of California was established to coordinate the state’s response to invasive species. Its primary goal is to protect the state’s environment and economy by advising and guiding state agency efforts that prevent invasive species from entering the state, inhibit the establishment of invasive populations, and remove invasive populations that have started to become established.¹

IPM is a pest management strategy that seeks to maximize the effectiveness of pest management methods while minimizing harm to people and the environment. It embraces a wide variety of pest management strategies, including biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools. Pesticides are only used when there is a pest management need that cannot be safely and effectively met by other methods.

While IPM should be used to address all pest management needs, it is especially useful in ecologically sensitive situations like invasive species management. Since IPM emphasizes the selection of the most effective, least harmful pest management methods, it maximizes environmental benefit while reducing unintentional harm towards non-target native species.

In recent years, IPM has become a growing focus of legislative efforts. Since 2015, it has been referenced in at least 30 different bills, including

¹ [Invasive Species Council of California](#)

chaptered legislation like AB 1322 (Friedman, 2023) and AB 2062 (Maienschein, 2018). Unfortunately, the definition of IPM varies between these bills, leading to potential confusion and conflicting enforcement action. As more and more legislation involves IPM, it becomes increasingly important to codify a single, citable definition for them to use.

SOLUTION

AB 2509 would codify definitions for “integrated pest management” and “invasive species,” and require the Invasive Species Council of California to prioritize principles of IPM in all of its activities.

Specifically, this bill defines “invasive species” as nonnative organisms that cause or are likely to cause economic or environmental harm. This definition is derived from the one that currently governs Invasive Species Council activities.

Additionally, AB 2509 combines the federal definition of “integrated pest management” with the definition presented by the University of California IPM Program. Together, these definitions emphasize IPM’s focus on protecting environmental and human health through sustainable pest management techniques.

By codifying these definitions for general use within the entire Food and Agricultural Code, this bill will facilitate consistent pest management regulation and encourage the widespread use of safe and effective pest management methods.

SPONSOR

California Invasive Plant Council

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