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**AB-1800 Fairs: state funding: classification.** (2019-2020)

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**Assembly Bill No. 1800**

**CHAPTER 198**

An act to amend Section 4507 of, and to repeal Section 4509 of, the Food and Agricultural Code, relating to fairs.

[ Approved by Governor August 30, 2019. Filed with Secretary of State August 30, 2019. ]

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

AB 1800, Committee on Agriculture. Fairs: state funding: classification.

Existing law governs the apportionment of state funds to fairs within the network of California fairs, which includes, in general, the California Exposition and State Fair, district agricultural association fairs, county fairs, and citrus fruit fairs. Existing law requires the Department of Food and Agriculture to annually classify these fairs, taking into consideration specified criteria, including criteria regarding the type and class of exhibitions, attendance, efficiency of management, and financial need. Existing law requires the department to annually request advice and recommendations for modification of these classifications from boards of directors of fairs.

This bill would authorize, instead of require, the department to classify fairs. The bill would require the department to consider whether to classify or reclassify fairs at least once every 5 years. The bill would authorize, instead of require, the department to consider the above-described criteria and to consult with the boards of directors of fairs when making classifications. The bill would also repeal an obsolete provision.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** Section 4507 of the Food and Agricultural Code is amended to read:

**4507.** The department may classify, and shall consider, at least once every five years, whether to classify or reclassify, fairs that are required to file reports pursuant to Section 4505. The department may request advice and recommendations from boards of directors of fairs for this purpose. In making classifications, the department may, in addition, take into consideration factors that may include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) The type and class of agricultural, including livestock, industrial, and natural resources that are exhibited, and the amount of premiums that are paid in accordance with the approved premium list of the fair.

(b) Whether the fair is regional in nature, offers a special feature for agriculture, livestock, or industry, or is a sectional fair limiting exhibits to the region in which the fair is held, and any other characteristics and factors that the department deems necessary.

(c) The ratio of attendance at the fair to the population of the area that is served by it.

(d) The efficiency of management, including operational procedures, revenue from sources other than the state, quality of exhibits, and community interest in the fair.

(e) The extent and nature of interim utilization of fair property as promoted by the fair management.

(f) The need of the fair for money from state sources.

**SEC. 2.** Section 4509 of the Food and Agricultural Code is repealed.