

**RCW 69.80.050 Inspection of donated food by state and local agencies—Variance.** (1) Appropriate state and local agencies are authorized to inspect donated food items for wholesomeness and may establish procedures for the handling of food items.

(2) To facilitate the free distribution of food to needy persons, the local health officer, upon request from either a donor or distributing organization, may grant a variance to chapter 246-215 WAC covering physical facilities, equipment standards, and food source requirements when no known or expected health hazard would exist as a result of the action. [2002 c 217 s 3; 1983 c 241 s 6.]

**Effective date—2002 c 217 s 3:** "Section 3 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [March 28, 2002]." [2002 c 217 s 4.]

**Finding—Purpose—2002 c 217:** "The legislature finds and declares that the distribution of food by donors to charitable organizations, such as shelters, churches, and fraternal organizations, serving communal meals to needy individuals can be done safely consistent with rules and recommended health and safety guidelines. The establishment of recommended donor guidelines by the department of health can educate the public about the preparation and handling of food donated to charitable organizations for distribution to homeless and other needy people. The purpose of this act is to authorize and facilitate the donation of food to needy persons in accordance with health and safety guidelines and rules, to assure that the donated food will not place needy recipients at risk, and to encourage businesses and individuals to donate surplus food to charitable organizations serving our state's needy population." [2002 c 217 s 1.]