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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1426**

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**State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1991 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Agriculture & Rural Development (originally sponsored by Representatives Grant, Ballard, Rayburn, Nealey, Rust, Belcher, Ludwig, Prince, Heavey, Inslee, Bray, Rasmussen, Jacobsen, Lisk, Kremen, Spanel and Edmondson).

Read first time February 8, 1991.

1            AN ACT Relating to research and extension programs of Washington  
2 State University; adding a new chapter to Title 15 RCW; and making an  
3 appropriation.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**            The legislature finds that public  
6 concerns are increasing about the need for significant efforts to  
7 develop sustainable systems in agriculture. The sustainable systems  
8 would address many anxieties, including the erosion of agricultural  
9 lands, the protection of natural resources, and the safety of food  
10 production. Consumers have demonstrated their apprehension in the  
11 marketplace by refusing to purchase products whose safety is suspect  
12 and consumer confidence is essential for a viable agriculture in  
13 Washington. Examples of surface and ground water contamination by  
14 pesticides and chemical fertilizers raise concerns about deterioration  
15 of environmental quality. Reducing soil erosion would maintain water

1 quality and protect the long-term viability of the soil for  
2 agricultural productivity. Both farmers and farm labor are  
3 apprehensive about the effects of pesticides on their health and  
4 personal safety. Development of sustainable farming systems would  
5 strengthen the economic viability of Washington's agricultural  
6 production industry.

7 Public anxieties over the use of chemicals in agriculture have  
8 resulted in congress amending the federal insecticide, fungicide and  
9 rodenticide act which requires all pesticides and their uses registered  
10 before November 1984 to be reregistered, complying with present  
11 standards, by the end of 1997. The legislature finds that the  
12 pesticide reregistration process and approval requirements could reduce  
13 the availability of chemical pesticides for use on minor crops in  
14 Washington and may jeopardize the farmers' ability to grow these crops  
15 in Washington.

16 The legislature recognizes that Washington State University  
17 supports research and extension programs that can lead to reductions in  
18 pesticide use where viable alternatives are both environmentally and  
19 economically sound. Yet, the legislature finds that a focused and  
20 coordinated program is needed to develop possible alternatives,  
21 increase public confidence in the safety of the food system, and  
22 educate farmers and natural resource managers on land stewardship.

23 The legislature further finds that growers, processors, and  
24 agribusiness depend upon pesticide laboratories associated with  
25 manufacturers, regional universities, state departments of agriculture,  
26 and the United States department of agriculture to provide residue data  
27 for registering essential pesticides. The registration of uses for  
28 minor crops, which include vegetables, fruits, nuts, berries, nursery  
29 and greenhouse crops, and reregistration of needed chemicals, are  
30 activities of particular concern to ensure crop production.

1 Furthermore, public demands for improved information and education on  
2 pesticides and risk assessment efforts justify these efforts.

3 The legislature further finds that multiple alternatives are needed  
4 for pest control, including programs for integrated pest management,  
5 genetic resistance to pests, biological control, cultural practices,  
6 and the use of appropriate approved chemicals.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Unless the context clearly requires  
8 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this  
9 chapter.

10 (1) "Center" means the center for sustaining agriculture and  
11 natural resources established at Washington State University.

12 (2) "Laboratory" means the food and environmental quality  
13 laboratory established at Washington State University at Tri-Cities.

14 (3) "Integrated pest management" is a strategy that uses various  
15 combinations of pest control methods, biological, cultural, and  
16 chemical, in a compatible manner to achieve satisfactory control and  
17 ensure favorable economic and environmental consequences.

18 (4) "IR-4 program" means interregional research project number  
19 four, clearances of chemicals and biologics for minor or special uses,  
20 established in 1963 by the cooperative state research service of the  
21 United States department of agriculture, the coordinated national  
22 program involving land-grant universities and the United States  
23 department of agriculture to provide data required for the registration  
24 of pesticides needed for the production of minor crops.

25 (5) "Natural resources" means soil, water, air, forests, wetlands,  
26 wildlands, and wildlife.

27 (6) "Pesticide" means chemical or biologic used to control pests  
28 such as insect, rodent, nematode, snail, slug, weed, virus, or any  
29 organism the director of agriculture may declare to be a pest.

1 (7) "Registration" means use of a pesticide approved by the state  
2 department of agriculture.

3 (8) "Sustainable agriculture" means a systems approach to farming,  
4 ranching, and natural resource production that builds on and supports  
5 the physical, biological, and ecological resource base upon which  
6 agriculture depends. The goals of sustainable agriculture are to  
7 provide human food and fiber needs in an economically viable manner for  
8 the agriculture industry and in a manner which protects the environment  
9 and contributes to the overall safety and quality of life.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A center for sustaining agriculture and  
11 natural resources is established at Washington State University. The  
12 center shall provide state-wide leadership in research, extension, and  
13 resident instruction programs to sustain agriculture and natural  
14 resources.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The center's primary activities include  
16 but are not limited to:

17 (1) Research programs which focus on developing possible  
18 alternative production and marketing systems through:

19 (a) Integrated pest management;

20 (b) Biological pest control;

21 (c) Plant and animal breeding;

22 (d) Conservation strategies; and

23 (e) Understanding the ecological basis of nutrient management;

24 (2) Extension programs which focus on:

25 (a) On-farm demonstrations and evaluation of alternative production  
26 practices;

27 (b) Information dissemination, and education concerning sustainable  
28 agriculture and natural resource systems; and

1 (c) Communication and training on sustainable agriculture  
2 strategies for consumers, producers, and farm and conservation-related  
3 organizations;

4 (3) On-farm testing and research to calculate and demonstrate costs  
5 and benefits, including economic and environmental benefits and trade-  
6 offs, inherent in farming systems and technologies;

7 (4) Crop rotation and other natural resource processes such as  
8 pest-predator interaction to mitigate weed, disease, and insect  
9 problems, thereby reducing soil erosion and environmental impacts;

10 (5) Management systems to improve nutrient uptake, health, and  
11 resistance to diseases and pests by incorporating the genetic and  
12 biological potential of plants and animals into production practices;

13 (6) Soil management, including conservation tillage and other  
14 practices to minimize soil loss and maintain soil productivity; and

15 (7) Animal production systems emphasizing preventive disease  
16 practices and mitigation of environmental pollution.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The center is managed by an  
18 administrator. The administrator shall hold a joint appointment as an  
19 assistant director in the Washington State University agricultural  
20 research center and cooperative extension.

21 (1) A committee shall advise the administrator. The dean shall  
22 make appointments to the advisory committee so the committee is  
23 representative of affected groups, such as the Washington department of  
24 social and health services, the Washington department of ecology, the  
25 Washington department of agriculture, the chemical and fertilizer  
26 industry, food processors, marketing groups, consumer groups,  
27 environmental groups, and natural resource and agricultural  
28 organizations.

1 (2) Each appointed member shall serve a term of three years, and  
2 one-third are appointed every year. The entire committee is appointed  
3 the first year: One-third for a term of one year, one-third for a term  
4 of two years, and one-third for a term of three years. A member shall  
5 continue to serve until a successor is appointed. Vacancies are filled  
6 by appointment for the unexpired term. The members of the advisory  
7 committee shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for  
8 travel expenses incurred while engaged in the business of the committee  
9 as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

10 (3) It is the responsibility of the administrator, in consultation  
11 with the advisory committee, to:

12 (a) Recommend research and extension priorities for the center;

13 (b) Conduct a competitive grants process to solicit, review, and  
14 prioritize research and extension proposals; and

15 (c) Advise Washington State University on the progress of the  
16 development and implementation of research, teaching, and extension  
17 programs that sustain agriculture and natural resources of Washington.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A food and environmental quality  
19 laboratory is established at Washington State University at Tri-Cities  
20 to conduct pesticide residue studies concerning fresh and processed  
21 foods, in the environment, and for human and animal safety. The  
22 laboratory shall cooperate with public and private laboratories in  
23 Washington, Idaho, and Oregon.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The responsibilities of the laboratory  
25 shall include:

26 (1) Evaluating regional requirements for minor crop registration  
27 through the federal IR-4 program;

1 (2) Conducting studies on the fate of pesticides on crops and in  
2 the environment, including soil, air, and water;

3 (3) Improving pesticide information and education programs; and

4 (4) Assisting federal and state agencies with questions regarding  
5 registration of pesticides which are deemed critical to crop  
6 production, consistent with priorities established in section 8 of this  
7 act; and

8 (5) Assisting in the registration of biopesticides, pheromones, and  
9 other alternative chemical and biological methods.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The laboratory is advised by a board  
11 appointed by the dean of the Washington State University college of  
12 agriculture and home economics. The dean shall cooperate with  
13 appropriate officials in Washington, Idaho, and Oregon in selecting  
14 board members.

15 (1) The board shall consist of one representative from each of the  
16 following interests: A human toxicologist or a health professional  
17 knowledgeable in worker exposure to pesticides, the Washington State  
18 University vice-provost for research or research administrator,  
19 representatives from the state department of agriculture, the  
20 department of ecology, the department of health, the department of  
21 labor and industry, privately owned Washington pesticide analytical  
22 laboratories, federal regional pesticide laboratories, an Idaho and  
23 Oregon laboratory, whether state, university, or private, a chemical  
24 and fertilizer industry representative, farm organizations, food  
25 processors, marketers, farm labor, environmental organizations, and  
26 consumers. Each board member shall serve a three-year term. The  
27 members of the board shall serve without compensation but shall be  
28 reimbursed for travel expenses incurred while engaged in the business  
29 of the board as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

1 (2) The board is in liaison with the pesticide advisory board and  
2 the pesticide incident reporting and tracking panel and shall review  
3 the chemicals investigated by the laboratory according to the following  
4 criteria:

5 (a) Chemical uses for which a data base exists on environmental  
6 fate and acute toxicology, and that appear safer environmentally than  
7 pesticides available on the market;

8 (b) Chemical uses not currently under evaluation by public  
9 laboratories in Idaho or Oregon for use on Washington crops;

10 (c) Chemicals that have lost or may lose their registration and  
11 that no reasonably viable alternatives for Washington crops are known;  
12 and

13 (d) Other chemicals vital to Washington agriculture.

14 (3) The laboratory shall conduct research activities using approved  
15 good laboratory practices, namely procedures and recordkeeping required  
16 of the national IR-4 minor use pesticide registration program.

17 (4) The laboratory shall coordinate activities with the national  
18 IR-4 program.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** The sum of seven million eight hundred  
20 thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is  
21 appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 1993, from the general  
22 fund to Washington State University for the purposes of carrying out  
23 this act. Of this appropriation, six million six hundred thousand  
24 dollars, shall be expended for the center for sustaining agriculture  
25 and natural resources and one million two hundred thousand dollars  
26 shall be expended for the food and environmental quality laboratory.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** Sections 1 through 8 of this act shall  
28 constitute a new chapter in Title 15 RCW.