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SENATE BILL 6955

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen, Schoesler, and Rasmussen

Read first time 03/11/08. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to a mobile livestock unit demonstration project;  
2 creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that: (a) There  
5 is a resurgence of interest by consumers to buy locally grown and  
6 specialty livestock products and a desire by local livestock producers  
7 to develop readily available mechanisms to provide consumers with these  
8 locally produced products;

9 (b) It has become increasingly difficult particularly for local,  
10 small, and specialty livestock producers to sell meat products to  
11 consumers in quantities that are convenient to and customarily  
12 purchased by consumers;

13 (c) There is a lack of local slaughtering facilities in the state  
14 that are approved by the United States department of agriculture that  
15 will readily take in small numbers of livestock from small producers  
16 when these meat products are offered for sale to another;

17 (d) Having a mobile livestock unit available would reduce the miles  
18 a farmer would have to travel, which reduces cost; and

1 (e) There are large potential markets in urban communities for  
2 locally grown food products whether provided directly from the  
3 producer, through a farmers market, or from a local retailer.

4 (2) The purpose of this act is to design and test the feasibility  
5 of making a mobile livestock slaughtering unit available to geographic  
6 areas in this state on a schedule to fulfill this demand.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) Subject to the appropriation of funds,  
8 Washington State University shall conduct a mobile livestock unit  
9 demonstration project. In conducting the project, the university shall  
10 contract to obtain the use of a mobile livestock unit that can travel  
11 from county-to-county in counties that have a demand for its services,  
12 that satisfies the requirements for United States department of  
13 agriculture food safety inspection service grants of inspection for  
14 meat products.

15 (2) In developing the demonstration project, Washington State  
16 University shall establish a mobile livestock unit advisory board. The  
17 advisory board shall consist of:

18 (a) Interested producers of various species of livestock such as  
19 cattle, goats, hogs, and sheep;

20 (b) Interested producers of specialty meat products such as  
21 heritage livestock, grass fed, grain fed, and organic;

22 (c) Representatives of farmers markets;

23 (d) Retailers interested in obtaining local and specialty meat  
24 products;

25 (e) Interested organizations representing livestock producers;

26 (f) The small farms and direct marketing section of the department  
27 of agriculture; and

28 (g) Other interested persons.

29 (3) Washington State University may use its network of cooperative  
30 extension offices in each county to advise interested producers of the  
31 availability and schedule of the mobile unit. Additionally, the  
32 university shall also make information available about existing local  
33 slaughtering and meat processing facilities that may provide cutting  
34 and wrapping services to livestock producers either in conjunction with  
35 the mobile unit or on a separate basis.

36 (4) Washington State University, with assistance from the advisory  
37 board, shall examine whether there is a demand for an expansion in the

1 number of mobile livestock units available in the state and develop  
2 recommendations as to the appropriate entity to provide this service.  
3 Further, an inquiry shall be made as to whether rural economic  
4 development grants or similar state or federal loan or grant programs  
5 are available for this purpose.

6 (5) The demonstration project shall be conducted for the fiscal  
7 year beginning July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010. Washington State  
8 University, with the input and assistance of the advisory board, shall  
9 submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the appropriate  
10 committees of the house of representatives and the senate by December  
11 1, 2010.

12 (6) This section expires December 31, 2010.

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