
SENATE BILL 6956

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senator Jacobsen

1 AN ACT Relating to convening a conference on enhancing marketing
2 opportunities for local agricultural products; and creating a new
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) Washington State University, in
6 cooperation with the department of agriculture and the department of
7 community, trade, and economic development, shall host a working
8 conference to explore the opportunities and impediments to increasing
9 local markets for locally produced food products and local agricultural
10 producers. The objective of the conference shall be to develop a
11 strategic plan and specific implementing actions that will assist local
12 producers to meet the preferences of local consumers of food products.

13 (2) The following, at a minimum, shall be included as topics of the
14 conference:

15 (a) Issues of concern to local livestock producers and local
16 consumers in making locally produced meat products more available to
17 local consumers, including a discussion of concepts such as a state
18 meat inspection program and a mobile livestock slaughtering unit as a

1 means to expand marketing opportunities for local producers and
2 consumers;

3 (b) Issues of concern to local fruit and vegetable growers and
4 local consumers in making locally grown fruit and vegetables more
5 available to local consumers;

6 (c) Ways to enhance farm-to-market connections that aid in
7 enhancing the viability of local agricultural producers and reducing
8 the distance that agricultural products are transported;

9 (d) An examination of alternative ways to define and reward
10 sustainable production of agricultural products;

11 (e) A consideration of emerging interests of growing urban
12 populations in nearby agritourism and agricultural-related experiences
13 for students and adults, and an evaluation of how Washington state can
14 capitalize on this emerging trend; and

15 (f) A means of informing farmers about opportunities and procedures
16 for supplying state agencies and local school districts to supply
17 Washington grown farm products as a result of the local farms - healthy
18 kids act, chapter . . . (Second Substitute Senate Bill No. 6483), Laws
19 of 2008.

20 (3) The conference shall be scheduled at a time that will allow
21 sufficient time to prepare a summary of the conference proceedings.
22 The conference proceedings shall include a summary of the topics that
23 are discussed, and findings and recommendations of the conference
24 participants. The report shall be submitted to the appropriate
25 committees of the legislature by December 1, 2010.

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