
HOUSE BILL 1375

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Representatives Walen, Fitzgibbon, Bateman, and Pollet

Read first time 01/26/21. Referred to Committee on Rural Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to protecting public health by prohibiting
2 certain activities related to fur production; amending RCW 16.72.010;
3 adding a new section to chapter 16.72 RCW; creating a new section;
4 repealing RCW 16.72.020, 16.72.030, and 16.72.040; prescribing
5 penalties; and providing an effective date.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the ongoing
8 COVID-19 pandemic is a public health crisis that has resulted in
9 immense loss of human life and economic damage that will be felt for
10 a very long time. Fur farms are not immune to the impacts of the
11 ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. During the summer and fall of 2020, farms
12 in at least nine countries and at least four states in the United
13 States, including Oregon, have been host to COVID-19 outbreaks at
14 mink farms. As recently as December 2020, the virus that causes
15 COVID-19 was discovered in mink samples from a farm in British
16 Columbia, Canada, where workers on the farm tested positive for the
17 virus. According to the Oregon department of agriculture, mink can
18 transmit the disease to other animals. Investigations on mink farms
19 around the world where the virus causing COVID-19 is present
20 identified dogs and cats who tested positive for the virus. While
21 there has not yet been evidence of a mink transmitting the virus to a

1 human, these outbreaks have proven deadly to the animals and pose an
2 unacceptable and unknown risk to the humans involved in the farming
3 operations.

4 (2) The legislature recognizes that it is necessary to take steps
5 to stop the spread of the disease and intends to do so while
6 minimizing overarching economic impacts and promote the health and
7 safety of the people and animals of the state. The risk to public
8 health is too high to continue this practice.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 16.72.010 and 1955 c 321 s 2 are each amended to
10 read as follows:

11 (~~As used in this chapter:~~

12 ~~"Director" means director of agriculture.~~

13 ~~"Department" means department of agriculture.))~~

14 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
15 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

16 (1) "Fur" means any animal skin or part thereof with hair,
17 fleece, or fur fibers attached thereto, either in its raw or
18 processed state.

19 (2) (a) "Fur product" means any article of clothing or covering
20 for any part of the body, or any fashion accessory including, but not
21 limited to, handbags, shoes, slippers, hats, earmuffs, scarves,
22 shawls, gloves, jewelry, keychains, toys or trinkets, and home
23 accessories and decor, that is made in whole or in part of fur.

24 (b) "Fur product" does not include any of the following:

25 (i) An animal skin or part thereof that is to be converted into
26 leather, which in processing will have the hair, fleece, or fur fiber
27 completely removed;

28 (ii) Cowhide with hair attached thereto;

29 (iii) Deerskin, sheepskin, or goatskin with hair attached
30 thereto; and

31 (iv) The pelt or skin of an animal that is preserved through
32 taxidermy.

33 (3) "Produce or manufacture" means to engage in any activity
34 related to processing raw materials to create a fur product for
35 distribution or sale.

36 (4) "Taxidermy" means the practice of preparing, stuffing, and
37 mounting the skin, in lifelike form, of any fish, reptile, amphibian,
38 bird, or mammal.

1 (5) "Ultimate consumer" means a person who buys for their own
2 use, or for the use of another, but not for resale or trade.

3 (6) "Used fur product" means fur in any form that has been worn
4 or used by an ultimate consumer.

5 (7) "Person" includes any individual, firm corporation, trust,
6 association, copartnership, society, or other organization of
7 individuals and any other business unit, device, or arrangement.

8 (8) "Fur farming" means breeding, raising, and rearing of mink,
9 marten, fox, and chinchilla in captivity or enclosures.

10 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 16.72
11 RCW to read as follows:

12 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, a
13 person may neither participate in fur farming, nor produce or
14 manufacture a fur product.

15 (2) The prohibitions in this section do not apply to any of the
16 following:

17 (a) A fur product used for religious purposes;

18 (b) A fur product used for traditional tribal, cultural, or
19 spiritual purposes by a member of a federally recognized Native
20 American tribe;

21 (c) Any activity expressly authorized by federal law; and

22 (d) A used fur product.

23 (3) A person who sells or trades any used fur product or fur
24 product described in subsection (2) of this section shall maintain a
25 record of each sale or trade of one of those exempt fur products for
26 at least one year. A violation of this subsection is not subject to a
27 criminal or civil penalty.

28 (4) A person violating this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.
29 Each fur product that constitutes a violation must be treated as a
30 separate and distinct offense.

31 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. The following acts or parts of acts are
32 each repealed:

33 (1) RCW 16.72.020 (Quarantine controls) and 1955 c 321 s 3;

34 (2) RCW 16.72.030 (Fox, mink, marten declared personalty) and
35 1955 c 321 s 4; and

36 (3) RCW 16.72.040 (Branding—Recording) and 1955 c 321 s 5.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act takes effect January 1, 2022.

--- **END** ---