

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5701**

Chapter 427, Laws of 1997

55th Legislature  
1997 Regular Session

DISTRIBUTION OF WOOD BYPRODUCTS AS COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER--  
LICENSURE

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/27/97

Passed by the Senate April 22, 1997  
YEAS 37 NAYS 10

BRAD OWEN

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**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 15, 1997  
YEAS 96 NAYS 0

CLYDE BALLARD

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**Speaker of the  
House of Representatives**

Approved May 19, 1997

CERTIFICATE

I, Mike O Connell, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5701** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

MIKE O'CONNELL

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**Secretary**

FILED

May 19, 1997 - 7:36 p.m.

GARY LOCKE

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5701**

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AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 1997 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      55th Legislature                      1997 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment (originally sponsored by Senators Morton, Rasmussen and Swecker)

Read first time 02/26/97.

1            AN ACT Relating to commercial soil amendments; amending RCW  
2 15.54.270, 15.54.800, and 70.95.240; adding a new section to chapter  
3 15.54 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 70.95 RCW.

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

5            **Sec. 1.** RCW 15.54.270 and 1993 c 183 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7            Terms used in this chapter have the meaning given to them in this  
8 chapter unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

9            (1) "Brand" means a term, design, or trademark used in connection  
10 with the distribution and sale of one or more grades of commercial  
11 fertilizers.

12            (2) "Bulk fertilizer" means commercial fertilizer distributed in a  
13 nonpackage form such as, but not limited to, tote bags, tote tanks,  
14 bins, tanks, trailers, spreader trucks, and railcars.

15            (3) "Calcium carbonate equivalent" means the acid-neutralizing  
16 capacity of an agricultural liming material expressed as a weight  
17 percentage of calcium carbonate.

18            (4) "Commercial fertilizer" means a substance containing one or  
19 more recognized plant nutrients and that is used for its plant nutrient

1 content or that is designated for use or claimed to have value in  
2 promoting plant growth, and shall include limes, gypsum, ((and))  
3 manipulated animal and vegetable manures, and a material approved under  
4 section 5 of this act. It does not include unmanipulated animal and  
5 vegetable manures and other products exempted by the department by  
6 rule.

7 (5) "Customer-formula fertilizer" means a mixture of commercial  
8 fertilizer or materials of which each batch is mixed according to the  
9 specifications of the final purchaser.

10 (6) "Department" means the department of agriculture of the state  
11 of Washington or its duly authorized representative.

12 (7) "Director" means the director of the department of agriculture.

13 (8) "Distribute" means to import, consign, manufacture, produce,  
14 compound, mix, or blend commercial fertilizer, or to offer for sale,  
15 sell, barter, exchange, or otherwise supply commercial fertilizer in  
16 this state.

17 (9) "Distributor" means a person who distributes.

18 (10) "Grade" means the percentage of total nitrogen, available  
19 phosphoric acid, and soluble potash stated in whole numbers in the same  
20 terms, order, and percentages as in the "guaranteed analysis," unless  
21 otherwise allowed by a rule adopted by the department. Specialty  
22 fertilizers may be guaranteed in fractional units of less than one  
23 percent of total nitrogen, available phosphorus or phosphoric acid, and  
24 soluble potassium or potash. Fertilizer materials, bone meal, manures,  
25 and similar materials may be guaranteed in fractional units.

26 (11) "Guaranteed analysis."

27 (a) Until the director prescribes an alternative form of  
28 "guaranteed analysis" by rule the term "guaranteed analysis" shall mean  
29 the minimum percentage of plant nutrients claimed in the following  
30 order and form:

31	Total nitrogen (N)	. . . . .	percent
32	Available phosphoric acid (P205)		percent
33	Soluble potash (K20)	. . . . .	percent

34 The percentage shall be stated in whole numbers unless otherwise  
35 allowed by the department by rule.

36 The "guaranteed analysis" may also include elemental guarantees for  
37 phosphorus (P) and potassium (K).

1 (b) For unacidulated mineral phosphatic material and basic slag,  
2 bone, tankage, and other organic phosphatic materials, the total  
3 phosphoric acid or degree of fineness may also be guaranteed.

4 (c) Guarantees for plant nutrients other than nitrogen, phosphorus,  
5 and potassium shall be as allowed or required by rule of the  
6 department. The guarantees for such other nutrients shall be expressed  
7 in the form of the element.

8 (d) The guaranteed analysis for limes shall include the percentage  
9 of calcium or magnesium expressed as their carbonate; the calcium  
10 carbonate equivalent as determined by methods prescribed by the  
11 association of official analytical chemists; and the minimum percentage  
12 of material that will pass respectively a one hundred mesh, sixty mesh,  
13 and ten mesh sieve. The mesh size declaration may also include the  
14 percentage of material that will pass additional mesh sizes.

15 (e) In commercial fertilizer, the principal constituent of which is  
16 calcium sulfate (gypsum), the percentage of calcium sulfate  
17 ( $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) shall be given along with the percentage of total sulfur.

18 (f) The guaranteed analysis for a material approved under section  
19 5 of this act and to be used as a soil amendment shall include the name  
20 and percentage of each soil amending ingredient and the total  
21 percentage of all other ingredients.

22 (12) "Label" means the display of all written, printed, or graphic  
23 matter, upon the immediate container, or a statement accompanying a  
24 fertilizer.

25 (13) "Labeling" includes all written, printed, or graphic matter,  
26 upon or accompanying a commercial fertilizer, or advertisement,  
27 brochures, posters, television, and radio announcements used in  
28 promoting the sale of such fertilizer.

29 (14) "Licensee" means the person who receives a license to  
30 distribute a fertilizer under the provisions of this chapter.

31 (15) "Lime" means a substance or a mixture of substances, the  
32 principal constituent of which is calcium or magnesium carbonate,  
33 hydroxide, or oxide, singly or combined.

34 (16) "Manipulation" means processed or treated in any manner,  
35 including drying to a moisture content less than thirty percent.

36 (17) "Manufacture" means to compound, produce, granulate, mix,  
37 blend, repackage, or otherwise alter the composition of fertilizer  
38 materials.

1 (18) "Official sample" means a sample of commercial fertilizer  
2 taken by the department and designated as "official" by the department.

3 (19) "Packaged fertilizer" means commercial fertilizers, either  
4 agricultural or specialty, distributed in nonbulk form.

5 (20) "Person" means an individual, firm, brokerage, partnership,  
6 corporation, company, society, or association.

7 (21) "Percent" or "percentage" means the percentage by weight.

8 (22) "Registrant" means the person who registers commercial  
9 fertilizer under the provisions of this chapter.

10 (23) "Specialty fertilizer" means a commercial fertilizer  
11 distributed primarily for nonfarm use, such as, but not limited to, use  
12 on home gardens, lawns, shrubbery, flowers, golf courses, municipal  
13 parks, cemeteries, greenhouses, and nurseries.

14 (24) "Ton" means the net weight of two thousand pounds avoirdupois.

15 (25) "Total nutrients" means the sum of the percentages of total  
16 nitrogen, available phosphoric acid, and soluble potash as guaranteed  
17 and as determined by analysis.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 15.54 RCW  
19 to read as follows:

20 A material approved under section 5 of this act may be distributed  
21 as a commercial fertilizer and may be registered as a packaged  
22 commercial fertilizer. However, the department may refuse to register  
23 such a material as a packaged commercial fertilizer, may cancel the  
24 registration of the material as a packaged commercial fertilizer, and  
25 may prohibit its distribution as a commercial fertilizer if the  
26 department finds evidence that use of the material as a commercial  
27 fertilizer poses unacceptable hazards to human health or the  
28 environment that were not known during the approval process specified  
29 in section 5 of this act.

30 **Sec. 3.** RCW 15.54.800 and 1993 c 183 s 14 are each amended to read  
31 as follows:

32 (1) The director shall administer and enforce the provisions of  
33 this chapter and any rules adopted under this chapter. All authority  
34 and requirements provided for in chapter 34.05 RCW apply to this  
35 chapter in the adoption of rules.

1 (2) The director may adopt appropriate rules for carrying out the  
2 purpose and provisions of this chapter, including but not limited to  
3 rules providing for:

4 (a) Definitions of terms;

5 (b) Determining standards for labeling and registration of  
6 commercial fertilizers (~~and agricultural minerals and limes~~);

7 (c) The collection and examination of commercial fertilizers (~~and  
8 agricultural mineral and limes~~);

9 (d) Recordkeeping by registrants and licensees;

10 (e) Regulation of the use and disposal of commercial fertilizers  
11 for the protection of ground water and surface water; and

12 (f) The safe handling, transportation, storage, display, and  
13 distribution of commercial fertilizers.

14 **Sec. 4.** RCW 70.95.240 and 1993 c 292 s 3 are each amended to read  
15 as follows:

16 (1) After the adoption of regulations or ordinances by any county,  
17 city, or jurisdictional board of health providing for the issuance of  
18 permits as provided in RCW 70.95.160, it shall be unlawful for any  
19 person to dump or deposit or permit the dumping or depositing of any  
20 solid waste onto or under the surface of the ground or into the waters  
21 of this state except at a solid waste disposal site for which there is  
22 a valid permit. This section shall not:

23 (a) Prohibit a person from dumping or depositing solid waste  
24 resulting from his own activities onto or under the surface of ground  
25 owned or leased by him when such action does not violate statutes or  
26 ordinances, or create a nuisance; or

27 (b) Apply to a person using a material or materials on the land as  
28 commercial fertilizer if (i) the department of ecology has issued  
29 written approval for the use of the material or materials as  
30 commercial fertilizer as provided in section 5 of this act, (ii) the  
31 registration of the material or materials as a packaged commercial  
32 fertilizer has not been canceled under section 2 of this act, and (iii)  
33 the distribution of the material or materials as a commercial  
34 fertilizer has not been prohibited by the department of agriculture  
35 under section 2 of this act.

36 (2)(a) It is a class 3 civil infraction as defined in RCW 7.80.120  
37 for a person to litter in an amount less than or equal to one cubic  
38 foot.

1 (b) It is a class 1 civil infraction as defined in RCW 7.80.120 for  
2 a person to litter in an amount greater than one cubic foot. Unless  
3 suspended or modified by a court, the person shall also pay a litter  
4 cleanup fee of twenty-five dollars per cubic foot of litter. The court  
5 may, in addition to or in lieu of part or all of the cleanup fee, order  
6 the person to pick up and remove litter from the property, with prior  
7 permission of the legal owner or, in the case of public property, of  
8 the agency managing the property.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 70.95 RCW  
10 to read as follows:

11 (1) The legislature finds that an optional procedure should be  
12 established that provides certainty as to whether certain materials  
13 generated as byproducts from the manufacturing of wood products may  
14 clearly be distributed and used as commercial fertilizer. It is the  
15 intent of the legislature in establishing such a procedure that it be  
16 truly optional, and that the procedure or the legislature's  
17 establishment of the procedure not be construed, except as provided in  
18 subsection (3) of this section, as suggesting in any manner whatsoever  
19 that a material submitted or not submitted for approval under the  
20 procedure or generated or not generated as a byproduct from the  
21 manufacturing of wood products is or is not to be regulated as a solid  
22 waste.

23 (2) If a person desires to receive the express approval of the  
24 department of ecology to distribute a material generated as a byproduct  
25 from the manufacturing of wood products as a commercial fertilizer  
26 under chapter 15.54 RCW for use as a commercial fertilizer, the person  
27 may request in writing the department to provide such approval. The  
28 department shall issue written approval to the person and to the  
29 department of agriculture that the material may be used as a commercial  
30 fertilizer, if the material characteristics and management methods will  
31 not pose unacceptable hazards to human health and the environment. The  
32 written approval shall certify, to the extent practicable, that the use  
33 of the material as a commercial fertilizer is consistent with the  
34 following:

35 (a) The biosolids standards set forth in rule or guidance under  
36 chapter 70.95J RCW, municipal sewage sludge;

37 (b) Chapter 70.105D RCW, model toxics control act;

38 (c) Chapter 90.48 RCW, water pollution control;

1 (d) Chapter 70.94 RCW, Washington clean air act;  
2 (e) Chapter 70.105 RCW, hazardous waste management act; and  
3 (f) Other factors intended to protect human health and the  
4 environment.

5 (3) A material generated as a byproduct from the manufacturing of  
6 wood products that is approved by the department under this section for  
7 use as commercial fertilizer and that is distributed and used as such  
8 shall not be regulated as solid waste.

9 (4) A party aggrieved by a decision of the department to issue a  
10 written approval under this section or to deny the issuance of such an  
11 approval may appeal the decision to the pollution control hearings  
12 board within thirty days of the decision. Review of such a decision  
13 shall be conducted in accordance with chapter 43.21B RCW. Any  
14 subsequent appeal of a decision of the hearings board shall be obtained  
15 in accordance with RCW 43.21B.180.

Passed the Senate April 22, 1997.

Passed the House April 15, 1997.

Approved by the Governor May 19, 1997.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 19, 1997.