

1 2773.E AMS AG S4520.2

2 EHB 2773 - S COMM AMD

3 By Committee on Agriculture & International Trade

4 ADOPTED 03/07/02

5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
6 following:

7 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** To provide uniformity in the marketplace
8 and to protect consignors of apples, the existing state standards for
9 grades and packs of apples shall be evaluated. Revision of the
10 standards for grades and packs of apples that will clarify the
11 standards in such a way that they will be applied consistently among
12 warehouses and commission merchants shall be evaluated. The evaluation
13 must consider the appropriate level of uniformity that will ensure that
14 the apples of a particular variety, grade, and pack sold from one
15 warehouse will be equivalent to the apples of the same variety, grade,
16 and pack sold from other warehouses.

17 For this purpose, the director shall convene an apple grades and
18 packs committee that is widely recognized within the horticultural
19 industry as representing the interests of the industry to recommend by
20 consensus revisions to the standards that it believes will provide the
21 desired level of uniformity that best serves the interest of apple
22 producers, packers, and consumers.

23 If the industry committee recommends such revisions by consensus by
24 December 15, 2003, the director shall give great weight to the
25 recommendations in proposing the adoption of rules that reflect the
26 consensus recommendations.

27 If the apple grades and packs committee does not make
28 recommendations by consensus by December 15, 2003, the committee shall
29 report its findings and conclusions to the department of agriculture,
30 and to appropriate legislative committees that have jurisdiction over
31 agricultural issues at meetings scheduled during the next ensuing
32 regular session of the legislature. The appropriate legislative
33 committees may monitor the activities of the apple grades and packs
34 committee and may schedule interim committee meetings to obtain
35 progress reports by the apple grades and packs committee.

36 This section expires April 30, 2004.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The legislature finds that consignors of
2 fruit, whether the sale is conducted as individual sales or in a
3 pooling arrangement, need timely and more complete marketing
4 information regarding terms of sale for various varieties of fruit so
5 that producers can make informed business decisions. The legislature
6 finds that the affected industry needs to review the type of
7 information that is currently available, the type of information that
8 would be useful, and how best to make available the additional
9 information.

10 The legislature requests that the Washington state horticultural
11 association, the Wenatchee valley traffic association, the Yakima
12 valley growers and shippers association, and the Washington growers
13 clearinghouse association meet with each other to conduct a thorough
14 analysis of the marketing information needs of the industry and provide
15 recommendations to the legislature on how the market information needs
16 can best be addressed. The legislature requests that these groups
17 develop a joint report containing those items to improve the
18 availability of market information for which agreement has been
19 attained. On issues for which consensus has not been reached, each
20 organization is requested to provide a brief statement containing the
21 perspective of that industry segment. The legislature requests that
22 these reports shall be completed by December 15, 2003, with a copy to
23 be delivered to the director of the department of agriculture and to
24 the appropriate standing committees of the senate and the house of
25 representatives with jurisdiction over agricultural issues. These
26 legislative committees may schedule interim committee meetings to
27 obtain progress reports for activities being conducted under this
28 section.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) Each commission merchant that received
30 apples imported into the United States between January 1, 2002, and
31 November 30, 2002, shall report to the department of agriculture by
32 December 15, 2002. The report shall include the volume of each variety
33 of imported apples that was received by and packed and sold by the
34 commission merchant.

35 (2) The department of agriculture shall compile the information, in
36 the aggregate, and provide a report to the secretary of the senate and
37 the chief clerk of the house of representatives by December 31, 2002.

