
**General Government Appropriations
Committee**

SSB 6341

Brief Description: Transferring food assistance programs to the department of agriculture.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development (originally sponsored by Senators Hatfield, Haugen, Schoesler, Prentice, Shin and Fairley).

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Transfers the Emergency Food Assistance Programs at the Department of Commerce and the Department of General Administration to the Department of Agriculture on July 1, 2010.

Hearing Date: 2/23/10

Staff: Owen Rowe (786-7391).

Background:

The Department of Commerce (DCOM) administers the Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) that provides fiscal and administrative support to food banks. The EFAP provides funding for 320 food banks and distribution centers to pay for staff, operational expenses, equipment, and food, as well as funding for 32 tribes to issue emergency food vouchers and food bank services.

The Department of General Administration (GA) manages the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). The TEFAP is a federal food program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); the TEFAP provides food and operational funding to 21 lead agencies through the GA. These lead agencies serve 450 food banks, shelters and meal providers in Washington. The CSFP is a USDA program that provides food designated specifically for the nutritional needs of low-

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income pregnant and breastfeeding women, other new mothers up to one year postpartum, infants, children up to age six, and elderly people at least 60 years of age.

Summary of Bill:

The bill transfers the EFAP from the DCOM and the TEFAP and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program from the GA to the Washington Department of Agriculture (WSDA). The effective date of the transfer of programs is July 1, 2010.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on July 1, 2010.