
SENATE BILL 6042

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Senators Pflug, Keiser, McCaslin, and Shin

Read first time 02/17/09. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to reporting contaminated food products; and
2 amending RCW 43.70.170.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.70.170 and 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 s 256 are each
5 amended to read as follows:

6 (1) The secretary on his or her own motion or upon the complaint of
7 any interested party, may investigate, examine, sample or inspect any
8 article or condition constituting a threat to the public health
9 including, but not limited to, outbreaks of communicable diseases, food
10 poisoning, contaminated water supplies, and all other matters injurious
11 to the public health. When not otherwise available, the department may
12 purchase such samples or specimens as may be necessary to determine
13 whether or not there exists a threat to the public health. In
14 furtherance of any such investigation, examination or inspection, the
15 secretary or the secretary's authorized representative may examine that
16 portion of the ledgers, books, accounts, memorandums, and other
17 documents and other articles and things used in connection with the
18 business of such person relating to the actions involved.

1 (2) For purposes of such investigation, the secretary or the
2 secretary's representative shall at all times have free and unimpeded
3 access to all buildings, yards, warehouses, storage and transportation
4 facilities or any other place. The secretary may also, for the
5 purposes of such investigation, issue subpoenas to compel the
6 attendance of witnesses, as provided for in RCW 43.70.090 or the
7 production of books and documents anywhere in the state.

8 (3) Within available funds, the department shall provide a toll-
9 free phone number to be listed in the government section of all phone
10 books distributed to the public at large, with the description:
11 "Report Suspicious or Contaminated Food Products." The toll-free
12 number shall be included with any press release or public statement by
13 the department involving contaminated food products. The toll-free
14 number may be a number that has already been obtained for other
15 department uses. The toll-free number shall be directed to a call
16 center within the department to provide advice and assistance to state
17 residents who are concerned about a particular food product that
18 appears contaminated, suspicious, or tampered with. The department
19 shall also publish the toll-free number on its web site accompanied by
20 an internet form that may be used to report the contaminated or
21 suspicious food product. All local public health jurisdictions shall
22 be provided with the toll-free number and encouraged to publish the
23 number in all materials dealing with local public health.

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