

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SENATE BILL 6082**

Chapter 247, Laws of 2012

62nd Legislature  
2012 Regular Session

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE LANDS--PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION

EFFECTIVE DATE: 06/07/12

Passed by the Senate March 6, 2012  
YEAS 35 NAYS 12

BRAD OWEN

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**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House March 2, 2012  
YEAS 63 NAYS 34

FRANK CHOPP

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved March 30, 2012, 1:26 p.m.

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SENATE BILL 6082** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

THOMAS HOEMANN

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**Secretary**

FILED

March 30, 2012

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SENATE BILL 6082**

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AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2012 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      62nd Legislature                      2012 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Haugen, Swecker, Hatfield, King, Ericksen, Honeyford, Shin, and Parlette

Read first time 01/11/12. Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Water & Rural Economic Development.

1            AN ACT Relating to the preservation and conservation of  
2 agricultural resource lands; and adding a new section to chapter 43.21C  
3 RCW.

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

5            NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.21C RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7            (1) The legislature finds the state's farm and range lands are a  
8 unique natural resource that provide for the production of food, fiber,  
9 alternative fuels, and other products necessary for the continued  
10 welfare of people locally, nationally, and globally. Each year, a  
11 significant amount of the state's agricultural land is irrevocably  
12 converted from actual or potential agricultural use to nonagricultural  
13 use. The continued decrease in the state's agricultural resource land  
14 base is threatening the ability of the agricultural industry to produce  
15 safe and affordable agricultural products in sufficient quantities to  
16 meet our current and future local, regional, and national food and  
17 fiber needs, as well as the demands of our export markets.

18            (2) The program and project actions of state agencies, local  
19 governments, and persons, in many cases, inadvertently result in the

1 conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses where alternative  
2 actions would be preferred. The legislature declares that it is the  
3 policy of the state to identify and take into account the adverse  
4 effects of these actions on the preservation and conservation of  
5 agricultural lands; to consider alternative actions, as appropriate,  
6 that could lessen such adverse effects; and to assure that such actions  
7 appropriately mitigate for unavoidable impacts to agricultural  
8 resources.

9 (3) By December 31, 2013, the department of ecology shall conduct  
10 rule making to review and consider whether the current environmental  
11 checklist form in WAC 197-11-960 ensures consideration of potential  
12 impacts to agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance, as  
13 that term is used in chapter 36.70A RCW. The review and update shall  
14 ensure that the checklist is adequate to allow for consideration of  
15 impacts on adjacent agricultural properties, drainage patterns,  
16 agricultural soils, and normal agricultural operations.

Passed by the Senate March 6, 2012.

Passed by the House March 2, 2012.

Approved by the Governor March 30, 2012.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 30, 2012.