
HOUSE BILL 1268

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Buys, Lytton, Shea, Wilcox, Young, Holy, and McCaslin

Read first time 01/16/15. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to hemp as a component of commercial animal feed;
2 creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that hemp seed
5 is known globally for its high levels of essential fatty acids, such
6 as omega-3, omega-6, omega-9, and gamma-linolenic acid, as well as
7 for its high levels of amino acid-containing protein.

8 (2) The legislature further finds that international research
9 suggests that hemp seed is an excellent source of nutrition for the
10 major classes of livestock, including cattle, swine, and poultry.
11 This research suggests that hemp is a valuable source of protein,
12 energy, and long-chain fatty acids in animals and, when included into
13 an animal's diet, has no adverse effect on production or health.
14 Research also shows that, when hemp seed meal is included in the feed
15 of laying hens, the omega fatty acid profile in the resulting eggs is
16 favorably influenced.

17 (3) The legislature further finds that local, state-based markets
18 exist in which consumers are willing to pay a premium price for
19 products that result from hemp-fed animals. The state should aid its
20 farmers and ranchers in accessing this price premium as a small, but

1 important, step towards helping small scale agriculture remain viable
2 and towards maintaining Washington's agricultural way of life.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of agriculture must
4 conduct a study evaluating whether hemp and hemp products should be
5 an allowable component of commercial feed in Washington. In
6 conducting the evaluation, the department of agriculture may focus
7 its efforts as it deems most appropriate and may limit its scope to
8 particular classes of animals where current research indicates that
9 hemp may have the most benefit on the health of the animal, the
10 welfare of the animal, the resulting product, or the overall physical
11 environment.

12 (2) If the department of agriculture determines that allowing
13 some use of hemp in commercial feed is appropriate, then the
14 department must take the appropriate administrative actions to allow
15 for commercial feed license holders to include hemp in their feed
16 formulations. If not, the department must provide a report to the
17 legislature, consistent with RCW 43.01.036, explaining the
18 department's findings and reasons for not taking administrative
19 action.

20 (3) If the department of agriculture finds that it cannot satisfy
21 the requirements of this section prior to the expiration date of this
22 section, then the department must bring agency request legislation in
23 the regularly scheduled 2018 legislative session to request an
24 extension of this date.

25 (4) This section expires June 30, 2018.

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