
THIRD SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1562

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Gregerson, Stonier, Orwall, Senn, Slatter, Peterson, Lovick, Farrell, Santos, Ryu, McBride, Ortiz-Self, Hudgins, Pollet, Riccelli, Macri, Pike, Stanford, Doglio, Fitzgibbon, Bergquist, Tharinger, Sawyer, Ormsby, Dolan, Cody, and Fey)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/18.

1 AN ACT Relating to continuing the work of the Washington food
2 policy forum; creating new sections; and providing an expiration
3 date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

6 (a) Numerous governmental agencies, state programs, and private
7 entities share goals and missions relating to food, nutrition,
8 agriculture, health, education, and economic development through
9 sustained agricultural production and improved access to nutritious
10 foods;

11 (b) The food and agriculture industry generates fifty-one billion
12 dollars annually, employs one hundred sixty thousand people, and
13 contributes thirteen percent to the state's economy;

14 (c) Agriculture is a leading employer in the state, produces over
15 three hundred different crops, and is composed of many diverse types
16 of agricultural endeavors;

17 (d) The state of Washington continues to lose farmland every year
18 to nonfarming uses;

19 (e) The state's food system is the network of people and
20 activities connecting growing and harvesting, processing,
21 distribution, consumption, and residue utilization, as well as

1 associated government and nongovernment institutions, regulations,
2 and programs;

3 (f) Several nongovernmental and charitable organizations are
4 engaged in the distribution of food to food banks and those in need,
5 and there exists an opportunity to build on connections between these
6 organizations and farmers to enhance the delivery of locally produced
7 food to various food programs;

8 (g) The current food system in the state of Washington is complex
9 and directly affected by the activities and policies of multiple
10 federal and state agencies and local governments;

11 (h) Small acreage farms in Washington provide local food and
12 maintain a vibrant culture of agriculture. Although several programs
13 exist to support small farm operations there are opportunities to
14 evaluate the effectiveness of these programs to reduce duplication of
15 effort and streamline service delivery to the farmers; and

16 (i) The work done by the regional food policy councils in the
17 state can serve as a model for local efforts to bring together
18 community, government, business, and agricultural interests, and
19 improved communication between these local activities, combined with
20 state efforts, could strengthen the state food policy system.

21 (2) The legislature recognizes the need to understand the impacts
22 of governmental rules and regulations on the viability of small
23 acreage agriculture.

24 (3) The purpose of this act is to provide for the establishment
25 of a forum to: (a) Increase the direct marketing sales of local farm
26 products; (b) reduce food insecurity in Washington; (c) identify
27 opportunities to improve coordination between local food policy
28 councils and state and federal agencies; and (d) identify rules and
29 regulations impeding the viability of small acreage agriculture.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The Washington food policy forum is
31 established as a public-private partnership and its purpose is to
32 develop recommendations to advance the following food system goals:

33 (a) To increase direct marketing sales and consumption of
34 Washington-grown foods;

35 (b) To expand and promote programs that bring healthy and
36 nutritious Washington-grown foods to Washington residents, including
37 increased state purchasing of local food products for schools, adult
38 care programs, and other state-funded food programs;

1 (c) To examine ways to encourage retention of an adequate number
2 of farmers for small scale farms, meet the educational needs for the
3 next generation of farmers, and provide for the continued economic
4 viability of local food production, processing, and distribution in
5 the state;

6 (d) To reduce food insecurity and hunger in the state; and

7 (e) To identify ways to improve coordination and communication
8 among local food policy entities and communication between the local
9 food policy entities and state agencies.

10 (2) Recommendations of the food policy forum must consider, but
11 not be limited to, ways in which the following may help achieve each
12 of the goals identified under subsection (1) of this section:

13 (a) Increased collaboration and communication between local,
14 state, and federal governments and agencies;

15 (b) Innovative public-private partnerships that can leverage
16 private and public market influence, such as through institutional
17 purchasing and contracts;

18 (c) Improvements to state or federal laws or regulations relevant
19 to the small acreage farming interactions with the food system and
20 food security in the state;

21 (d) Improvements in state or federal program implementation
22 relevant to small acreage farming interactions with the food system
23 and food security in the state;

24 (e) Identification of additional federal, state, local, and
25 private investments needed to accomplish the recommendations; and

26 (f) Defining and describing the variety of agriculture in the
27 state utilizing farm acreage, farm business type, crop and
28 agricultural product type, and defining what the term "local" means
29 in the context of food production and distribution.

30 (3) In developing its recommendations, the food policy forum:

31 (a) Shall coordinate with appropriate local, state, and federal
32 agencies, tribes, and nongovernmental organizations to avoid
33 duplication of effort;

34 (b) Shall solicit public input through public hearings or
35 informational sessions;

36 (c) May conduct research and analysis as needed within financial
37 resources available to the forum; and

38 (d) May form an advisory committee or committees to address
39 issues identified by the forum and that are within the guidelines of

1 subsection (1) of this section, as requiring additional study or
2 particular expertise.

3 (4) The directors of the state conservation commission and the
4 department of agriculture are responsible for appointing
5 participating members of the food policy forum and no appointment may
6 be made unless each director concurs in the appointment. In making
7 appointments, the directors must attempt to ensure a diversity of
8 knowledge, experience, and perspectives reflecting the issues to be
9 addressed by the forum including, but not limited to:

- 10 (a) State and federal government employees, including academia;
11 (b) Related nonprofit and community organizations; and
12 (c) The food industry, including food production, processing,
13 distribution, marketing, and retail sales.

14 (5) A majority of the participating members appointed by the
15 directors must appoint an administrative chair for the forum.

16 (6) In addition to members appointed by the directors, four
17 legislators may serve on the food policy forum in an ex officio
18 capacity. Legislative participants must be appointed as follows:

19 (a) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint one
20 member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of
21 representatives; and

22 (b) The president of the senate shall appoint one member from
23 each of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

24 (7) Each member of the food policy forum shall serve without
25 compensation but may be reimbursed for travel expenses as authorized
26 in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

27 (8) Staff for the food policy forum must be provided by the state
28 conservation commission and the department of agriculture. The state
29 conservation commission and the department of agriculture are jointly
30 responsible for transmitting the recommendations of the food policy
31 forum to the legislature, consistent with RCW 43.01.036, by October
32 29, 2019.

33 (9) This section expires July 1, 2020.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If specific funding for the purposes of
35 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
36 provided by June 30, 2018, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
37 act is null and void.

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