
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2712

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By House Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Kretz, Riccelli, Maycumber, Lekanoff, Mosbrucker, Chopp, Walsh, Chapman, Harris, Blake, Dent, Pettigrew, Rude, Springer, Steele, Appleton, Caldier, Fitzgibbon, Leavitt, Eslick, Volz, Van Werven, Shea, Cody, Tharinger, Robinson, Young, and Ormsby)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring retailers to indicate the country of
2 origin on beef sold to the public; and adding a new section to
3 chapter 15.04 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 15.04
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) A retailer who sells beef or offers beef for sale that is
8 raised and processed in Washington state must make an effort to
9 display information that is clearly visible and readily viewable by
10 the public and placed in the immediate vicinity of the beef to
11 designate and display the beef as either:

12 (a) "U.S.A. beef" if the beef is derived exclusively from animals
13 that are either:

14 (i) Born, raised, and slaughtered exclusively in the United
15 States; or

16 (ii) Born and raised exclusively in the United States and
17 transported for a period of time not more than sixty days through any
18 other country and slaughtered in the United States; or

19 (b) "Imported" if the beef does not meet the criteria described
20 in (a) of this subsection. The placard for imported beef must

1 indicate each country in which the animal was born, raised, and
2 slaughtered.

3 (2) The retailer is only required to comply with subsection (1)
4 of this section if the Washington state beef shipped to the retailer
5 is clearly marked as to its origin and is accompanied with a placard
6 or similar signage compatible with the display case of the retailer.

7 (3) The department may adopt rules necessary to implement this
8 section.

9 (4) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
10 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

11 (a) "Beef" means meat from cattle, including veal.

12 (b)(i) "Meat" means the edible part of the muscle of an animal
13 that is skeletal or that is found in the tongue, diaphragm, heart, or
14 esophagus, with or without the accompanying or overlying fat, and the
15 portions of the bone, skin, sinew, nerve, and blood vessels that
16 normally accompany the muscle tissue and that are not separated from
17 it in the process of dressing.

18 (ii)(A) "Meat" includes the edible part of the muscle that has
19 been chopped or ground.

20 (B) "Meat" does not include the muscle found in the lips, snout,
21 or ears, nor any edible part of the muscle that has been
22 manufactured, cured, smoked, cooked, or processed.

23 (c) "Retailer" means a person regularly engaged in the business
24 of selling meat at retail to the public and selling only to the user
25 or consumer and not for resale.

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