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HOUSE BILL 1322

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State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1991 Regular Session

By Representatives R. King, Rayburn, Nealey, Basich, McLean, Hochstatter, Fuhrman, Bowman, Sheldon, Chandler, Morris, Ballard, Dorn and Tate.

Read first time January 25, 1991. Referred to Committee on Fisheries & Wildlife\Appropriations.

1            AN ACT Relating to aquatic animal health; adding a new chapter to  
2 Title 15 RCW; and making appropriations.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**            The legislature has recognized that  
5 aquaculture is a branch of the agriculture industry; farmed fish and  
6 shellfish are among the top fifteen agricultural commodities in  
7 Washington state with an annual production value of forty-two million  
8 dollars; there is an increased demand world-wide for fish and fish  
9 products; and Washington state aquatic animal producers play a  
10 significant role in the world market for aquacultural products and in  
11 the economy of the state.

12            The legislature further recognizes that confined public and private  
13 farmed fish and shellfish are substantially vulnerable and sensitive to  
14 the risk of diseases. To ensure the highest levels of production, for  
15 both the public and private sectors, identification and treatment of

1 these diseases is imperative. There are insufficient diagnostic,  
2 certification, and extension services available to Washington's aquatic  
3 animal industry; and there is no complete training program provided at  
4 any Washington state institution of higher education to educate  
5 professionals in the areas of aquatic animal health, diagnostics, and  
6 certification.

7 Therefore, the legislature finds that it is in the best interest of  
8 the state to develop aquatic animal diagnostic and extension services  
9 and curricula within the state, and to provide state veterinarian  
10 certification for aquatic animal products, as is currently done for the  
11 livestock industry. It is the intent of the legislature that in  
12 consultation with the aquaculture industry, Washington State  
13 University, the University of Washington, and the department of  
14 agriculture cooperate in the development of such services and  
15 curricula.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of agriculture shall  
17 contract with Washington State University to establish and operate an  
18 aquatic animal health diagnostic and extension laboratory and  
19 certification service at the Washington State University research and  
20 extension center at Puyallup.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Washington State University, in  
22 cooperation with the University of Washington, shall establish a  
23 training program in the field of aquatic animal health and disease.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act shall  
25 constitute a new chapter in Title 15 RCW.

