
**Economic Development,
Agriculture & Trade Committee**

HB 1086

Brief Description: Regulating commercial feed.

Sponsors: Representatives Linville, Kristiansen and Pettigrew; by request of Department of Agriculture.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Changes pet food product registration from a one- to a two-year cycle.
- Clarifies terminology, reporting, inspection fees, and public disclosure exemptions associated with commercial feed distribution.
- Authorizes the Department of Agriculture to obtain a warrant to search vehicles carrying commercial feed if inspectors are refused admittance.

Hearing Date: 1/25/05

Staff: Meg Van Schoorl (786-7105).

Background:

The Commercial Feed Program at the Washington State Department of Agriculture (Department) regulates the distribution of animal feeds, including pet foods, specialty pet foods, and commercial livestock feed.

Pet Food Product Registration

All pet food and specialty pet food products are required to be registered by the Department prior to distribution in this state. Registrations are renewed annually.

Commercial Feed Inspection Fees and Feed Distribution Reports

Twice annually, the Department collects inspection fees and feed distribution (tonnage) reports from certain licensees and registrants. Licensees and registrants who are not required to pay an inspection fee because someone else is paying it are not required to file a report. Feed distribution reports are not public records.

Search Warrants

The Department may enter, inspect, obtain samples and examine records in feed factories, warehouses, establishments and in vehicles. If access is denied to inspectors, the Department has the authority to obtain a warrant to search feed factories, warehouses, and establishments.

Summary of Bill:

Pet Food Product Registration

The pet food product registration period is changed from annual to biennial. About half of the registrants will be registered for a one-year period on July 1, 2005, and will be registered for a two-year period on July 1, 2006. The other half of the registrants will register for a two-year cycle on July 1, 2005.

Commercial Feed Inspection Fees and Feed Distribution Reports

All commercial feed licensees and registrants must submit a semi-annual report to the Department regardless of the amount of feed they distribute or inspection fees they owe. The report must include information on: the total tonnage of commercial feed they distribute in or into the state; the total tonnage they are paying fees on; and who is responsible for paying fees on the tonnage they are not paying fees on. Company-specific information in the semi-annual report is exempt from public disclosure, as is information that the Department obtains from other sources to verify information contained in the report.

Search Warrants

If the owner or agent of a vehicle carrying commercial feed denies access to inspectors, the Department may obtain a warrant to search the vehicle.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed, except Sections 3 and 4. Section 3, relating to pet food registration, is subject to an emergency clause and takes effect July 1, 2005. Section 4, relating to pet food registration, takes effect July 1, 2006.