

**SB 6092** - S AMD 174

By Senator Hatfield

1       Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3       "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The department of agriculture shall  
4 convene a milk pricing task force to consider the long-term economic  
5 stability of the dairy industry in Washington state over recent decades  
6 with special attention to the current depression in prices impacting  
7 the industry in February 2009.

8       (2) The task force shall be appointed by the director and composed  
9 of four persons representing dairy farmers; two persons representing  
10 dairy processors; up to five representatives of various distributors,  
11 wholesalers, and retailers who sell milk or milk products in the state;  
12 and the director of the department of agriculture or the director's  
13 designee. The task force shall select a chair from its membership.

14       (3) The task force shall examine:

15       (a) The current federal order pricing system and its limited  
16 ability to prevent extreme volatility in prices;

17       (b) How other states have supplemented federal milk pricing  
18 regulation with additional state regulations;

19       (c) Washington state current state milk pricing statutes and  
20 whether the law needs to be updated;

21       (d) The possible use of requesting congressional compact authority  
22 between states for the purpose of jointly regulating milk prices  
23 between states; and

24       (e) Developing a recommendation as to whether Washington state  
25 should request a similar congressional compact authority for working  
26 with neighboring states.

27       (4) The task force shall meet periodically in Olympia, Washington.  
28 Task force members shall serve without compensation and are not  
29 eligible for reimbursement from the state for travel or per diem  
30 expenses.

1           (5) The department of agriculture shall provide staff for the task  
2 force.

3           (6) The task force shall submit a report of its findings and  
4 recommendations by December 15, 2010, to the appropriate committees of  
5 the legislature."

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6           On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "pricing;" strike the  
7 remainder of the title and insert "and creating a new section."

EFFECT: Directs the department of agriculture to convene a task  
force on milk pricing. Task force members must serve without  
compensation and task force meetings must take place in Olympia.

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