

**2SHB 1562 - H AMD 229**

By Representative Dent

ADOPTED 03/07/2017

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 (e) The state's food system is the network of people and  
18 activities connecting growing and harvesting, processing,  
19 distribution, consumption, and residue utilization, as well as  
20 associated government and nongovernment institutions, regulations,  
21 and programs;

22 (f) Several nongovernmental and charitable organizations are  
23 engaged in the distribution of food to food banks and those in need,  
24 and there exists an opportunity to build on connections between these  
25 organizations and farmers to enhance the delivery of locally produced  
26 food to various food programs;

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

30 (h) Small acreage farms in Washington provide local food and  
31 maintain a vibrant culture of agriculture. Although several programs  
32 exist to support small farm operations there are opportunities to

1 evaluate the effectiveness of these programs to reduce duplication of  
2 effort and streamline service delivery to the farmers; and

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

8 (2) The legislature recognizes the need to understand the impacts  
9 of governmental rules and regulations on the viability of small  
10 acreage agriculture.

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

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

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

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

26 (c) To examine ways to encourage retention of an adequate number  
27 of farmers for small scale farms, meet the educational needs for the  
28 next generation of farmers, and provide for the continued economic  
29 viability of local food production, processing, and distribution in  
30 the state;

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

32 (e) To identify ways to improve coordination and communication  
33 among local food policy entities and communication between the local  
34 food policy entities and state agencies.

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

38 (a) Increased collaboration and communication between local,  
39 state, and federal governments and agencies;

1 (b) Innovative public-private partnerships that can leverage  
2 private and public market influence, such as through institutional  
3 purchasing and contracts;

4 (c) Improvements to state or federal laws or regulations relevant  
5 to the small acreage farming interactions with the food system and  
6 food security in the state;

7 (d) Improvements in state or federal program implementation  
8 relevant to small acreage farming interactions with the food system  
9 and food security in the state;

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

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

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

17 (a) Shall coordinate with appropriate local, state, and federal  
18 agencies, tribes, and nongovernmental organizations to avoid  
19 duplication of effort;

20 (b) Shall solicit public input through public hearings or  
21 informational sessions;

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

24 (d) May form an advisory committee or committees to address  
25 issues identified by the forum and that are within the guidelines of  
26 subsection (1) of this section, as requiring additional study or  
27 particular expertise.

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

35 (a) State and federal government employees, including academia;

36 (b) Related nonprofit and community organizations; and

37 (c) The food industry, including food production, processing,  
38 distribution, marketing, and retail sales.

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

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

4 (a) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint one  
5 member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of  
6 representatives; and

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

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

12 (8) Staff for the food policy forum must be provided by the state  
13 conservation commission and the department of agriculture. The state  
14 conservation commission and the department of agriculture are jointly  
15 responsible for transmitting the recommendations of the food policy  
16 forum to the legislature, consistent with RCW 43.01.036, by October  
17 29, 2018.

18 (9) This section expires July 1, 2019.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If specific funding for the purposes of  
20 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not  
21 provided by June 30, 2017, in the omnibus appropriations act, this  
22 act is null and void."

23 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Modifies the intent statement to include references to:  
Organizations that distribute food to food banks; small acreage  
farms; strengthening the state food policy system; increased direct  
marketing of local farm products; identification of opportunities to  
improve coordination between local food policy councils and state and  
federal agencies; and identification of regulations that impede the  
viability of small acreage agriculture.

Eliminates mandate that the food policy forum build on the work  
of the temporary food policy forum established in 2016.

Modifies the food system goals to be addressed by the forum to  
include: Increased direct marketing sales of Washington-grown foods;  
expansion of programs that bring healthy and nutritious Washington-  
grown food to Washington residents; retention of an adequate number  
of farmers for small scale farms; and improved communication among  
local food policy entities, and between local food policy entities  
and state agencies.

Modifies recommendations that the food policy council must  
consider to include: Improvements in state and federal laws with  
regard to small acreage farming; and describing the variety of  
agriculture in the state based on farm acreage, farm business type,  
and agricultural product type.

Directs both the conservation commission and the department of agriculture to provide staff for the food policy forum and to be responsible for transmitting the food policy forum's report to the legislature by October 31, 2018.

Directs both the director of the conservation commission and the director of the department of agriculture to appoint members of the food policy forum and requires that the directors agree on all appointments.

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