

E2SHB 1562 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Agriculture, Water, Trade & Economic Development

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

1 exist to support small farm operations there are opportunities to
2 evaluate the effectiveness of these programs to reduce duplication of
3 effort and streamline service delivery to the farmers; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (a) Increased collaboration and communication between local,
2 state, and federal governments and agencies;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (b) Shall solicit public input through public hearings or
23 informational sessions;

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

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

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

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

38 (b) Related nonprofit and community organizations; and

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

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

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

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

9 (b) The majority leader and minority leader of the senate shall
10 appoint one member from each of the two largest caucuses of the
11 senate.

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

15 (8) Staff for the food policy forum must be provided by the state
16 conservation commission and the department of agriculture. The state
17 conservation commission and the department of agriculture are jointly
18 responsible for transmitting the recommendations of the food policy
19 forum to the legislature, consistent with RCW 43.01.036, by October
20 29, 2018.

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

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

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26 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "forum;" strike the
27 remainder of the title and insert "creating new sections; and
28 providing an expiration date."

EFFECT: The majority leader and minority leader are designated to
appoint the senate members of the food policy forum.

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