

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 6318

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Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Clarifying existing law by creating a new intrastate food safety and security chapter from existing intrastate food safety laws and moving certain provisions in the intrastate commerce food, drugs, and cosmetics act to the titles of the agencies that administer the provisions.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks (originally sponsored by Senators Takko, Warnick and Van De Wege; by request of Department of Agriculture).

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks
House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources

Background: The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) inspects and analyzes food products; inspects food processing, handling, and storage establishments and practices; inspects dairy farms and plants; inspects eggs for quality and weight standards; sets and enforces sanitary standards for egg graders; inspects refrigerated locker plants; inspects custom farm slaughterers, custom meat facilities, and licenses; and supervises dairy technicians.

The WSDA Food Safety Program:

- protects and reduces public health risk by assuring the safety of the state's food supply;
- facilitates the movement of Washington agricultural products in domestic and international markets; and
- issues export certificates of sanitation and free sale for food products manufactured in Washington State.

Food businesses licensed by the state of Washington to produce, warehouse, process, market, sell, and distribute product are required to follow the safe food production, management and handling practices specified in the Washington Food, Drug & Cosmetic Act, and other applicable federal and state food safety laws and regulations depending on the type of activity the food business performs.

The WSDA, in consultation with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), establishes and implements identification standards for species of food fish and shellfish that are sold for human consumption. The WSDA, in consultation with the DFW, also provides

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procedures for enforcing food fish and shellfish labeling requirements and misbranding prohibitions.

Summary: Provisions from the Washington Food, Drug & Cosmetic Act related to food are moved to a new chapter in Title 15 RCW, creating the Food Safety and Security Act. The language is clarified or updated. The rules that WSDA adopted under the Washington Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act remain effective until June 30, 2022, or until WSDA repeals or amends the rules, whichever is first. WSDA's authority under the Washington Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act is maintained in the Food Safety and Security Act, including the authority to:

- establish standards for food including identity, quality, and fill;
- establish tolerance standards for any substance, including pesticides, color additives, and food additives used in or on food;
- set uniform standards for pull date labeling and storage conditions for perishable packaged foods;
- license food businesses;
- investigate violations or possible violations; and
- enforce penalties.

A new chapter is created in Title 77 RCW that includes the provisions relating to fish and shellfish labeling. The authority to regulate and enforce provisions relating to fish and shellfish labeling and misbranding is transferred to DFW.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	47	0
House	96	2

Effective: June 7, 2018