CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2525

69th Legislature
2026 Regular Session

Passed by the House February 12, 2026
Yeas 94 Nays 0

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate March 5, 2026
Yeas 47 Nays 1

President of the Senate

Approved

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2525** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

Chief Clerk

FILED

Secretary of State
State of Washington

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2525

Passed Legislature - 2026 Regular Session

State of Washington 69th Legislature 2026 Regular Session

By House Postsecondary Education & Workforce (originally sponsored by Representatives Mendoza, Springer, Corry, Dufault, Leavitt, Ley, Ybarra, Bernbaum, Chase, Parshley, Manjarrez, Barnard, Macri, Eslick, and Nance)

READ FIRST TIME 02/04/26.

AN ACT Relating to establishing the heritage orchard program; adding a new section to chapter 28B.30 RCW; and creating new sections.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the apple is intertwined with the history of Washington and the United States. American propagation of apples began as early as the 1600s and by 1900, there were approximately 20,000 known varieties of apples across North America.

(2) The legislature further finds that:

(a) Since 1900, half of North America's known apple varieties have become extinct; and

(b) Dedicated Washingtonians have discovered at least 29 varieties of apples previously thought to be extinct. Such "lost apples" are often located in small orchards originally planted on homesteads or other family farms.

(3) It is, therefore, the intent of the legislature to create a heritage orchard program to support the conservation of rare apple varieties and to preserve this element of Washington's history.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.30 RCW to read as follows:

Washington State University shall establish a heritage orchard program and adopt rules to implement this section.

(1) At minimum, the heritage orchard program must:

(a) Maintain a registry of heritage orchards in Washington, including their locations; and

(b) Develop and maintain a list of rare and lost apple varieties.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "heritage orchard" means:

(a) An orchard with at least five apple trees that are more than 74 years old; or

(b) At least one tree of a rare or lost apple variety, as defined by the heritage orchard program.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If specific funding for the purposes of this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by June 30, 2026, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and void.

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