

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT  
**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1957**

Chapter 137, Laws of 1991

52nd Legislature  
1991 Regular Session

FOOD PROCESSING PLANTS--LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/28/91

Passed by the House March 12 1991  
Yeas 96 Nays 0

JOE KING  
**Speaker of the  
House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate April 12, 1991  
Yeas 38 Nays 0

JOEL PRITCHARD  
**President of the Senate**

Approved May 10, 1991

BOOTH GARDNER  
**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Alan Thompson, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1957** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

ALAN THOMPSON  
**Chief Clerk**

FILED

May 10, 1991 - 2:37 p.m.

Secretary of State  
State of Washington



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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1957**

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 1991 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1991 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Agriculture & Rural Development (originally sponsored by Representatives Rayburn, Nealey, McLean, Chandler, Roland, Franklin and Rasmussen; by request of Department of Agriculture).

Read first time March 4, 1991.

1            AN ACT Relating to food processing; amending RCW 69.07.010,  
2 69.07.040, 69.07.050, 69.07.060, and 69.07.150; adding new sections to  
3 chapter 69.07 RCW; repealing RCW 69.07.090 and 69.07.130; and  
4 prescribing penalties.

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

6            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 69.07 RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8            The processing of food intended for public consumption is important  
9 and vital to the health and welfare both immediate and future and is  
10 hereby declared to be a business affected with the public interest.  
11 The provisions of this chapter are enacted to safeguard the consuming  
12 public from unsafe, adulterated, or misbranded food by requiring  
13 licensing of all food processing plants as defined in this chapter and  
14 setting forth the requirements for such licensing.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 69.07.010 and 1967 ex.s. c 121 s 1 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       For the purposes of this chapter:

4       (1) "Department" means the department of agriculture of the state  
5 of Washington;

6       (2) "Director" means the director of the department;

7       (3) "Food" means any substance used for food or drink by ~~((man))~~  
8 any person, including ice, and any ingredient used for components of  
9 any such substance regardless of the quantity of such component;

10       (4) "Sale" means selling, offering for sale, holding for sale,  
11 preparing for sale, trading, bartering, offering a gift as an  
12 inducement for sale of, and advertising for sale in any media;

13       (5) "Food processing" means the handling or processing of any food  
14 in any manner in preparation for sale for human consumption: PROVIDED,  
15 That it shall not include fresh fruit or vegetables merely washed or  
16 trimmed while being prepared or packaged for sale in their natural  
17 state;

18       (6) "Food processing plant" includes but is not limited to any  
19 premises, plant, establishment, building, room, area, facilities and  
20 the appurtenances thereto, in whole or in part, where food is prepared,  
21 handled or processed in any manner for ~~((resale or))~~ distribution  
22 ~~((to))~~ or sale for resale by retail outlets, restaurants, and any such  
23 other facility selling or distributing to the ultimate consumer:  
24 PROVIDED, That ~~((retail outlets))~~, as set forth herein, establishments  
25 processing foods in any manner for resale shall be considered a food  
26 processing plant as to such processing;

27       (7) "Food service establishment" shall mean any fixed or mobile  
28 restaurant, coffee shop, cafeteria, short order cafe, luncheonette,  
29 grill, tearoom, sandwich shop, soda fountain, tavern, bar, cocktail  
30 lounge, night club, roadside stand, industrial-feeding establishment,

1 retail grocery, retail food market, retail meat market, retail bakery,  
2 private, public, or nonprofit organization routinely serving food,  
3 catering kitchen, commissary or similar place in which food or drink is  
4 prepared for sale or for service on the premises or elsewhere, and any  
5 other eating or drinking establishment or operation where food is  
6 served or provided for the public with or without charge.

7 For the purpose of this chapter any custom cannery or processing  
8 plant where raw food products, food, or food products are processed for  
9 the owner thereof, or the food processing facilities are made available  
10 to the owners or persons in control of raw food products or food or  
11 food products for processing in any manner, shall be considered to be  
12 food processing plants((~~-~~));

13 (8) "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, or  
14 association.

15 **Sec. 3.** RCW 69.07.040 and 1988 c 5 s 1 are each amended to read as  
16 follows:

17 It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a food processing  
18 plant or process foods without first having obtained an annual license  
19 from the department, which shall expire on ~~((the 31st day of March~~  
20 ~~following issuance. A separate license shall be required for each food~~  
21 ~~processing plant))~~ a date set by rule by the director. License fees  
22 shall be prorated where necessary to accommodate staggering of  
23 expiration dates. Application for a license shall be on a form  
24 prescribed by the director and accompanied by a twenty-five dollar  
25 annual license fee. Such application shall include the full name of the  
26 applicant for the license and the location of the food processing plant  
27 he intends to operate. If such applicant is an individual, receiver,  
28 trustee, firm, partnership, association or corporation, the full name  
29 of each member of the firm or partnership, or names of the officers of

1 the association or corporation shall be given on the application. Such  
2 application shall further state the principal business address of the  
3 applicant in the state and elsewhere and the name of a person domiciled  
4 in this state authorized to receive and accept service of summons of  
5 legal notices of all kinds for the applicant(~~(, and any other necessary~~  
6 ~~information prescribed by the director)~~). The application shall also  
7 specify the type of food to be processed and the method or nature of  
8 processing operation or preservation of that food and any other  
9 necessary information. Upon the approval of the application by the  
10 director and compliance with the provisions of this chapter, including  
11 the applicable regulations adopted hereunder by the department, the  
12 applicant shall be issued a license or renewal thereof.

13 Licenses shall be issued to cover only those products, processes,  
14 and operations specified in the license application and approved for  
15 licensing. Wherever a license holder wishes to engage in processing a  
16 type of food product that is different than the type specified on the  
17 application supporting the licensee's existing license and processing  
18 that type of food product would require a major addition to or  
19 modification of the licensee's processing facilities or has a high  
20 potential for harm, the licensee shall submit an amendment to the  
21 current license application. In such a case, the licensee may engage  
22 in processing the new type of food product only after the amendment has  
23 been approved by the department.

24 If upon investigation by the director, it is determined that a  
25 person is processing food for retail sale and is not under permit,  
26 license, or inspection by a local health authority, then that person  
27 may be considered a food processor and subject to the provisions of  
28 this chapter.

1       **Sec. 4.** RCW 69.07.050 and 1988 c 5 s 2 are each amended to read as  
2 follows:

3       If the application for renewal of any license provided for under  
4 this chapter is not filed prior to (~~April 1st in any year~~) the  
5 expiration date as established by rule by the director, an additional  
6 fee of fifteen dollars shall be assessed and added to the original fee  
7 and shall be paid by the applicant before the renewal license shall be  
8 issued: PROVIDED, That such additional fee shall not be charged if the  
9 applicant furnishes an affidavit certifying that he or she has not  
10 operated a food processing plant or processed foods subsequent to the  
11 expiration of his or her license.

12       **Sec. 5.** RCW 69.07.060 and 1979 c 154 s 19 are each amended to read  
13 as follows:

14       The director may, subsequent to a hearing thereon, deny, suspend or  
15 revoke any license provided for in this chapter if he determines that  
16 an applicant has committed any of the following acts:

17       (1) Refused, neglected or failed to comply with the provisions of  
18 this chapter, the rules and regulations adopted hereunder, or any  
19 lawful order of the director.

20       (2) Refused, neglected or failed to keep and maintain records  
21 required by this chapter, or to make such records available when  
22 requested pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

23       (3) Refused the department access to any portion or area of the  
24 food processing plant for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of  
25 this chapter.

26       (4) Refused the department access to any records required to be  
27 kept under the provisions of this chapter.

1 (5) Refused, neglected, or failed to comply with any provisions of  
2 chapter 69.04 RCW, Washington Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, or any  
3 regulations adopted thereunder.

4 The provisions of this section requiring that a hearing be  
5 conducted before an action may be taken against a license do not apply  
6 to an action taken under section 6 of this act.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 69.07 RCW  
8 to read as follows:

9 (1) Whenever the director finds an establishment operating under  
10 conditions that constitute an immediate danger to public health or  
11 whenever the licensee or any employee of the licensee actively prevents  
12 the director or the director's representative, during an onsite  
13 inspection, from determining whether such a condition exists, the  
14 director may summarily suspend, pending a hearing, a license provided  
15 for in this chapter.

16 (2) Whenever a license is summarily suspended, the holder of the  
17 license shall be notified in writing that the license is, upon service  
18 of the notice, immediately suspended and that prompt opportunity for a  
19 hearing will be provided.

20 (3) Whenever a license is summarily suspended, food processing  
21 operations shall immediately cease. However, the director may  
22 reinstate the license when the condition that caused the suspension has  
23 been abated to the director's satisfaction.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 69.07 RCW  
25 to read as follows:

26 The director or the director's deputies, assistants, and inspectors  
27 are authorized to do all acts and things necessary to carry out the  
28 provisions of this chapter, including the taking of verified



1 statements. The department personnel are empowered to administer oaths  
2 of verification on the statement.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** A new section is added to chapter 69.07 RCW  
4 to read as follows:

5 It shall be unlawful to resell, to offer for resale, or to  
6 distribute for resale in intrastate commerce any food processed in a  
7 food processing plant, which has not obtained a license, as provided  
8 for in this chapter, once notification by the director has been given  
9 to the person or persons reselling, offering, or distributing food for  
10 resale, that said food is from an unlicensed processing operation.

11 **Sec. 9.** RCW 69.07.150 and 1967 ex.s. c 121 s 15 are each amended  
12 to read as follows:

13 (1) Any person violating any provision of this chapter or any rule  
14 or regulation adopted hereunder shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and  
15 guilty of a gross misdemeanor for any second and subsequent violation:  
16 PROVIDED, That any offense committed more than five years after a  
17 previous conviction shall be considered a first offense. A misdemeanor  
18 under this section is punishable to the same extent that a misdemeanor  
19 is punishable under RCW 9A.20.021 and a gross misdemeanor under this  
20 section is punishable to the same extent that a gross misdemeanor is  
21 punishable under RCW 9A.20.021.

22 (2) Whenever the director finds that a person has committed a  
23 violation of any of the provisions of this chapter, and that violation  
24 has not been punished pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, the  
25 director may impose upon and collect from the violator a civil penalty  
26 not exceeding one thousand dollars per violation per day. Each  
27 violation shall be a separate and distinct offense.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 10.**    The following acts or parts of acts are  
2 each repealed:

3        (1) RCW 69.07.090 and 1967 ex.s. c 121 s 9; and

4        (2) RCW 69.07.130 and 1967 ex.s. c 121 s 13.

Passed the House March 12 1991.

Passed the Senate April 12, 1991.

Approved by the Governor May 10, 1991.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 10, 1991.