
SENATE BILL 5082

State of Washington 53rd Legislature 1993 Regular Session

By Senators M. Rasmussen, Barr, Erwin and Bauer

Read first time 01/13/93. Referred to Committee on Agriculture.

1 AN ACT Relating to poultry farming; amending RCW 16.57.010; adding
2 a new section to chapter 16.57 RCW; adding a new section to chapter
3 16.36 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that ratites have been
6 raised for commercial purposes on farms in the United States for over
7 sixty years and have been raised elsewhere for over one hundred twenty
8 years.

9 In recognition that ratite farming is an agricultural pursuit, the
10 purpose of this act is to assure that the regulatory mechanisms
11 regarding animal health and ownership identification are in place.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 16.57.010 and 1989 c 286 s 22 are each amended to read
13 as follows:

14 For the purpose of this chapter:

15 (1) "Department" means the department of agriculture of the state
16 of Washington.

17 (2) "Director" means the director of the department or a duly
18 appointed representative.

1 (3) "Person" means a natural person, individual, firm, partnership,
2 corporation, company, society, and association, and every officer,
3 agent or employee thereof. This term shall import either the singular
4 or the plural as the case may be.

5 (4) "Livestock" includes, but is not limited to, horses, mules,
6 cattle, sheep, swine, goats, poultry and rabbits.

7 (5) "Brand" means a permanent fire brand or any artificial mark,
8 other than an individual identification symbol, approved by the
9 director to be used in conjunction with a brand or by itself.

10 (6) "Production record brand" means a number brand which shall be
11 used for production identification purposes only.

12 (7) "Brand inspection" means the examination of livestock or
13 livestock hides for brands or any means of identifying livestock or
14 livestock hides and/or the application of any artificial identification
15 such as back tags or ear clips necessary to preserve the identity of
16 the livestock or livestock hides examined.

17 (8) "Individual identification symbol" means a permanent mark
18 placed on a horse for the purpose of individually identifying and
19 registering the horse and which has been approved for use as such by
20 the director.

21 (9) "Registering agency" means any person issuing an individual
22 identification symbol for the purpose of individually identifying and
23 registering a horse.

24 (10) "Poultry" means chickens, turkeys, ratites, and other
25 domesticated fowl.

26 (11) "Ratite" means, but is not limited to, ostrich, emu, rhea, or
27 other flightless bird used for human consumption, whether live or
28 slaughtered.

29 (12) "Ratite farming" means breeding, raising, and rearing of an
30 ostrich, emu, or rhea in captivity or an enclosure.

31 (13) "Microchipping" means the implantation of an identification
32 microchip in the pipping muscle of a chick ratite or the implantation
33 of a microchip in the tail muscle of an otherwise unidentified adult
34 ratite.

35 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 16.57 RCW
36 to read as follows:

37 The department may, in consultation with representatives of the
38 ratite industry, develop by rule a system that provides for the

1 identification of individual ratites through the use of microchipping.
2 The department may establish fees for the issuance or reissuance of
3 microchipping numbers sufficient to cover the expenses of the
4 department.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 16.36 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) Poultry as defined in RCW 16.57.010 is subject to this chapter,
8 including, but not limited to, quarantines, health certificate
9 requirements, and rules adopted by the director.

10 (2) The department shall, in consultation with the ratite industry,
11 the poultry industry, and other affected groups, review the adequacy of
12 existing animal health regulations that pertain to ratites. The
13 department shall adopt rules as deemed necessary to assure adequate
14 protection to the ratite and poultry industries from a potential
15 importation or spread of contagious diseases and parasites.

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