

2325-S

Sponsor(s): House Committee on Agriculture & Ecology (originally sponsored by Representatives Wood, Schoesler, Gombosky, Kessler, Linville, Kagi and Esser)

Brief Description: Providing for donation and distribution of food.

HB 2325-S.E - DIGEST

(DIGEST AS ENACTED)

Finds and declares that the distribution of food by donors to charitable organizations, such as shelters, churches, and fraternal organizations, serving communal meals to needy individuals can be done safely consistent with rules and recommended health and safety guidelines. The establishment of recommended donor guidelines by the department of health can educate the public about the preparation and handling of food donated to charitable organizations for distribution to homeless and other needy people.

Declares that the purpose of this act is to authorize and facilitate the donation of food to needy persons in accordance with health and safety guidelines and rules, to assure that the donated food will not place needy recipients at risk, and to encourage businesses and individuals to donate surplus food to charitable organizations serving our state's needy population.

Provides that, no later than December 31, 2004, the state board of health shall promulgate rules for the safe receipt, preparation, and handling by distributing organizations of food accepted from donors in order to facilitate the donation of food, free of charge, and to protect the health and safety of needy people.

Provides that, no later than December 31, 2004, the department of health, in consultation with the state board of health, shall develop educational materials for donors containing recommended health and safety guidelines for the preparation and handling of food donated to distributing organizations.

Declares that, to facilitate the free distribution of food to needy persons, the local health officer, upon request from either a donor or distributing organization, may grant a variance to chapter 246-215 WAC covering physical facilities, equipment standards, and food source requirements when no known or expected health hazard would exist as a result of the action.