

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 2568

---

**As Reported by House Committee On:**  
Agriculture & Natural Resources

**Title:** An act relating to the dairy products commission.

**Brief Description:** Modifying provisions relating to the dairy products commission.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Blake, Newhouse and Chase.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Agriculture & Natural Resources: 1/24/08, 1/28/08 [DP].

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Makes changes regarding replacement and removal of commissioners on the Washington Dairy Products Commission (Commission).
- Eliminates the producer-dealer position on the Commission, reducing the number of commissioners from 10 to nine.

---

### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 10 members: Representatives Blake, Chair; Van De Wege, Vice Chair; Warnick, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Eickmeyer, Grant, Lantz, Loomis, McCoy, Nelson and Newhouse.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass. Signed by 2 members: Representatives Kretz, Ranking Minority Member; Orcutt.

**Staff:** Colleen Kerr (786-7168).

**Background:**

The Washington Dairy Products Commission (Commission) was created by the Washington Legislature in 1939 under statute. The Commission is directed by a board of 10 commissioners comprised of seven dairy producers, one producer-dealer, one processor representative, and one representative of the Washington State Department of Agriculture

---

*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

(WSDA). The Director (Director) of the WSDA appoints commissioners and oversees the Commission budgetary expenditures.

---

**Summary of Bill:**

The Commission shall be composed of nine members, and removes the requirement that one commissioner be a producer-dealer. When only one candidate is nominated for a position, the Director has the discretion to appoint or reject the candidate. Vacancies will be filled by appointment by the Director from a list of candidates proposed by the Commission. When only one candidate is proposed, the Director may appoint or reject the candidate and request an additional candidate from the Commission.

---

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:**

(In support) This bill makes technical and practical changes. The Commission has had difficulty in finding someone to fill the position of the producer-dealer on the Commission, leaving that position vacant for at least a year. With the way the industry has changed, there are just not enough people in that role to be able to consistently fill that position. Additionally, it has been difficult for the Commission to remove a member for nonattendance. Chronic nonattendance by certain commissioners can prevent the Commission from being able to achieve a quorum and actually take action on necessary business. This bill remedies that issue. Additionally, in some districts it is difficult to get more than one candidate for a position. This changes the nomination requirements to allow for such situations and also makes it clear that when the Director is presented with only one name, he or she may still reject that name and request another.

(Opposed) None.

**Persons Testifying:** Chris Cheney, Washington Dairy Farmers Federation; and Stephen Matzen and Liz Anderson, Washington Dairy Products Commission.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.