
SENATE BILL 6256

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/14/08. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to heritage livestock and poultry breeds; creating
2 new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that preserving
5 genetic diversity of animal species is of high interest to the public.
6 The development of livestock and poultry species commenced centuries
7 ago through domestication and breeding of what had been wild animal
8 species. Through the ages, many species of food animals have been
9 transported from one region or continent to another and distinct and
10 recognizable breeds of these species have developed. The legislature
11 finds that the historic livestock and poultry breeds retain different
12 and unique genetic attributes including factors that can affect
13 fertility, foraging ability, longevity, maternal instincts, and
14 resistance to diseases and parasites.

15 As some specialized breeds have become favored in modern food
16 production systems, competitive market forces have caused others to
17 diminish or become extinct. When a breed is lost, the unique genetic
18 attributes are not retrievable. The legislature finds that sufficient

1 mechanisms currently do not exist to support the continued survival of
2 some of the declining breeds.

3 The purpose of this act is to establish a nonregulatory incentive-
4 based program to encourage owners of rare and diminishing species of
5 livestock and poultry to continue rearing these animals. It is the
6 intent of the legislature to establish procedures to provide
7 recognition to owners of animals as heritage livestock and poultry and
8 thereby increase public awareness of their contribution toward the
9 perpetuation of rare and declining breeds.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The Washington heritage livestock and
11 poultry breed recognition program is hereby created in the department
12 of archaeology and historic preservation.

13 (2) The director shall establish a heritage livestock and poultry
14 breed recognition program. To apply for recognition, an animal owner
15 may submit an application form to the department that includes the
16 breed of the livestock or poultry, photos of the animals, a brief
17 history of the livestock or poultry breed including the breed's origin,
18 and its interesting and unique characteristics. The department may use
19 as a general guide for the recognition program, the species of
20 livestock and poultry that are designated as "critical," "threatened,"
21 or "watch" on the conservation priority list established by the
22 American livestock breeds conservancy. Persons owning livestock or
23 poultry of breeds not included on these lists may submit supplemental
24 information regarding the breed's status as a rare or diminishing breed
25 for consideration by the department for possible designation as a
26 heritage livestock breed.

27 (3) The department shall (a) periodically issue recognition awards
28 to the owners of the animals designated under subsection (2) of this
29 section and (b) maintain a web site that includes pictures and a short
30 description of animals on the heritage livestock breed registry.

31 (4) The department may request from the department of agriculture
32 assistance and expertise related to livestock and poultry to implement
33 this section. The agencies may enter into a memorandum of agreement to
34 facilitate this assistance.

35 (5) This section expires July 1, 2010.

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