

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## ESHB 2128

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Concerning fees assessed by the department of agriculture.

**Sponsors:** House Committee on General Government & Information Technology (originally sponsored by Representative Hudgins; by request of Department of Agriculture).

### House Committee on General Government & Information Technology

#### Background:

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) Food Safety Program regulates Washington's food supply by inspecting food processing and storage facilities and their practices, managing several food processing licenses, providing technical assistance, and investigating consumer complaints and food-related emergencies.

The WSDA collects approximately 150 different fees that support WSDA activities, including the Food Safety Program. In a budget proviso in the 2013-15 State Omnibus Appropriation Act, the Legislature directed the WSDA to convene a work group with appropriate stakeholders to review fees supporting WSDA programs that also receive State General Fund support. The resulting work group released a report in November 2013 that made a number of fee-specific recommendations, all of them in the Food Safety Program.

#### Summary:

The following WSDA fees are changed:

- The milk processing plant license fee is raised from \$55 to \$250 per year.
- The dairy technician's initial license fee is raised from \$10 to \$25, and the renewal fee is raised from \$5 to \$25 each odd-numbered year.
- The sanitary certificate fees for milk processing plants and food processors are raised from \$50 to \$75 per certificate.
- The range for food processing plant license fees, which are based on gross annual sales, is raised from a minimum of \$55 and a maximum of \$825 per year to a minimum of \$92 and a maximum of \$862 per year.
- The food storage warehouse fee is raised from \$50 to \$200 per year.

The following WSDA fees are created:

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- The fee for any endorsement, in addition to a dairy technician's license, is \$25.
- An inspection fee may be assessed by the WSDA for manufacturing facilities that must be inspected under the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance but do not satisfy the definitions of "milk processing plant," "food processing plant," or "food storage warehouse."

Revenue from certain dairy-related license fees is redirected from the State General Fund to the agricultural local fund.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

Third Special Session

House	63	35
Senate	35	8

**Effective:** October 9, 2015