
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2014

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By House Early Learning & Human Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Macri, DeBolt, Pellicciotti, Kilduff, Robinson, Hudgins, Stonier, Sawyer, Jenkins, Lovick, Ortiz-Self, Tarleton, Young, McBride, Ormsby, Stanford, Doglio, Slatter, Santos, and Fey)

READ FIRST TIME 02/17/17.

1 AN ACT Relating to collecting data on hunger in Washington state;
2 adding a new section to chapter 43.70 RCW; and creating a new
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** INTENT. The legislature recognizes that
6 hunger and food insecurity affect a significant number of families
7 and single adults in Washington. The legislature recognizes that data
8 on the extent of food insecurity and the reach of key nutrition
9 programs is currently inadequate and will be improved through use of
10 existing survey platforms and data collection by key state agencies.
11 The legislature further recognizes that the department of health
12 collects disaggregated data on race and ethnicity consistent with
13 categories defined by the United States census bureau in its
14 administration of the behavioral risk factor surveillance system
15 survey. It is the goal of the legislature to increase data
16 disaggregation and alignment across state agencies. Therefore, the
17 legislature intends to establish that it is the responsibility of the
18 department of health to conduct research on food insecurity in
19 Washington.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1)(a) Beginning in 2018 and every year thereafter, the
4 department shall add the United States department of agriculture two-
5 question food insecurity screen to the behavioral risk factor
6 surveillance system survey.

7 (b) The department shall gather a sufficient number of responses
8 to the two food insecurity survey questions to gather a sample size
9 as needed to produce county level data every even-numbered year, and
10 as feasible in the least populous counties while complying with
11 department and centers for disease control and prevention guidelines
12 for protecting respondent privacy in survey data.

13 (c) The department shall gather a sufficient number of responses
14 to the two food insecurity survey questions to disaggregate
15 respondents by race and ethnicity of the participants and other
16 subgroups to the extent possible based on existing data sets
17 available to the department and other state agencies, including but
18 not limited to data collected by the office of the superintendent of
19 public instruction under RCW 28A.300.042. The department shall expand
20 the sample size as needed to produce state level data every even-
21 numbered year while complying with department and centers for disease
22 control and prevention guidelines for protecting respondent privacy
23 in survey data.

24 (2)(a) Beginning in 2020 and annually thereafter, the department
25 shall produce a report on ongoing United States department of
26 agriculture funded nutrition assistance programs in Washington state.

27 (b) The report must include information from state agencies that
28 administer an ongoing United States department of agriculture funded
29 nutrition assistance program, including the department of social and
30 health services, the department of health, the office of the
31 superintendent of public instruction, and the Washington state
32 department of agriculture. The information collected must include,
33 but is not limited to, the following:

34 (i) The number of people in Washington who are eligible for the
35 program;

36 (ii) The number of people in Washington who participated in the
37 program;

38 (iii) The average annual participation rate in the program;

39 (iv) Participation rates by geographic distribution;

40 (v) The annual federal funding of the program in Washington; and

1 (vi) Other criteria as required by (c) of this subsection.

2 (c) By January 1, 2020, the department, in consultation with
3 advocacy groups and experts that focus on hunger and poverty issues,
4 academic experts in poverty and nutrition issues, advocacy groups and
5 experts in race issues, community-based organizations that administer
6 federal nutrition programs, tribal governments, and families impacted
7 by poverty, shall develop additional criteria including, but not
8 limited to:

9 (i) Performance benchmarks for programs in Washington state, with
10 a focus on existing benchmarks;

11 (ii) Geography;

12 (iii) Socioeconomic characteristics of households; and

13 (iv) Degree of disaggregation of racial and ethnic groups.

14 (d) The department shall provide the report to the appropriate
15 committees of the legislature and to the governor by December 31,
16 2020, and annually thereafter.

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