
HOUSE BILL 1519

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Shea, McCaslin, Blake, and Chandler

Read first time 01/23/19. Referred to Committee on Innovation, Technology & Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to restricting cell-cultured meat products;
2 amending RCW 28B.10.620; adding a new section to chapter 28B.10 RCW;
3 adding a new chapter to Title 69 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This act may be known and cited as the
6 natural meat protection act.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The legislature finds that there have been
8 recent efforts to develop cell-cultured meat, which is a meat product
9 grown in laboratories from cell cultures of animal muscle or organ
10 tissue. Cell-cultured meat is also known as in vitro meat, lab-grown
11 meat, synthetic meat, or fake meat. There is uncertainty regarding
12 which government entities should appropriately regulate this product
13 and whether the word "meat" is an accurate descriptor in compliance
14 with current laws. The legislature finds that there is insufficient
15 information about cell-cultured meat to authorize its sale safely
16 into the Washington food system.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The definitions in this section apply
18 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
19 otherwise.

1 (1) "Cell-cultured meat product" is any meat product artificially
2 grown from cell cultures of animal muscle or organ tissues.

3 (2) "Director" means the director of the department of
4 agriculture.

5 (3) "Person" includes an individual, partnership, corporation,
6 association, or any other entity.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) A person may not advertise, sell, or
8 offer for sale a cell-cultured meat product in the state of
9 Washington.

10 (2) State funding may not be appropriated or expended to fund
11 research or development of cell-cultured meat product.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this
13 subsection, any person violating any provision of this chapter is
14 guilty of a misdemeanor.

15 (b) A second or subsequent violation is a gross misdemeanor. Any
16 offense committed more than five years after a previous conviction is
17 considered a first offense.

18 (2) Whenever the director finds that a person has committed a
19 violation of any of the provisions of this chapter, and that
20 violation has not been punished pursuant to subsection (1) of this
21 section, the director may impose upon and collect from the violator a
22 civil penalty not exceeding one thousand dollars per violation per
23 day. Each violation is a separate and distinct offense. No civil
24 penalty may be assessed unless the person charged has been given
25 notice and opportunity for a hearing pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW.
26 If the director is unable to collect the civil penalty, the director
27 shall refer the collection to the attorney general.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10
29 RCW to read as follows:

30 (1) Pursuant to section 4 of this act, the boards of regents of
31 state universities may not expend any state funds, or allow the use
32 of state-funded facilities, for research or development of cell-
33 cultured meat product.

34 (2) For the purposes of this section, "cell-cultured meat
35 product" has the same meaning as defined in section 3 of this act.

1 **Sec. 7.** RCW 28B.10.620 and 1969 ex.s. c 223 s 28B.10.620 are
2 each amended to read as follows:

3 Except as provided in section 6 of this act, the boards of
4 regents of the state universities are hereby empowered to enter into
5 agreements with corporations organized under chapter(~~s—24.08,~~
6 ~~24.16~~) 24.03 or 24.20 RCW, whereby such corporations may be
7 permitted to conduct on university property devoted mainly to
8 medical, educational, or research activities, under such conditions
9 as the boards of regents shall prescribe, any educational, hospital,
10 research, or related activity which the boards of regents shall find
11 will further the objects of the university.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act
13 constitute a new chapter in Title 69 RCW.

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