
HOUSE BILL 2049

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representative Blake

Read first time 02/14/19. Referred to Committee on Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to commercial egg layer operations; and amending
2 RCW 69.25.065 and 69.25.107.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 69.25.065 and 2011 c 306 s 3 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) All new and renewal applications submitted under RCW
7 69.25.050 before January 1, 2026, must include proof that all eggs
8 and egg products provided in intrastate commerce by the applicant are
9 produced by commercial egg layer operations:

10 (a) With a current certification under the 2010 version of the
11 united egg producers animal husbandry guidelines for United States
12 egg laying flocks for conventional cage systems or cage-free systems
13 or a subsequent version of the guidelines recognized by the
14 department in rule; or

15 (b) Operated in strict compliance with any standards, adopted by
16 the department in rule, that are equivalent to or more stringent than
17 the standards identified in (a) of this subsection.

18 (2) All new and renewal applications submitted under RCW
19 69.25.050 before January 1, 2017, must, in addition to complying with
20 subsection (1) of this section, include proof that all eggs and egg
21 products provided in intrastate commerce by the applicant are

1 produced by commercial egg layer operations whose housing facilities,
2 if built between January 1, 2012, and December 31, 2016, are either:

3 (a) Approved under, or convertible to, the American humane
4 association facility system plan for enriched colony housing in
5 effect on January 1, 2011, or a subsequent version of the plan
6 recognized by the department in rule and, in addition, are
7 convertible to the standards identified in RCW 69.25.107; or

8 (b) Operated in strict compliance with any standards, adopted by
9 the department in rule, that are equivalent to or more stringent than
10 the standards identified in (a) of this subsection.

11 (3) All new and renewal applications submitted under RCW
12 69.25.050 between January 1, 2017, and December 31, 2025, must, in
13 addition to complying with subsection (1) of this section, include
14 proof that all eggs and egg products provided in intrastate commerce
15 by the applicant are produced by commercial egg layer operations
16 whose housing facilities, if built on or after January 1, 2012, are
17 either:

18 (a) Approved under the American humane association facility
19 system plan and audit protocol for enriched colony housing in effect
20 on January 1, 2011, or a subsequent version of the plan recognized by
21 the department in rule and, in addition, are operated to the
22 standards identified in RCW 69.25.107; or

23 (b) Operated in strict compliance with any standards, adopted by
24 the department in rule, that are equivalent to or more stringent than
25 the standards identified in (a) of this subsection.

26 (4) All new and renewal applications submitted under RCW
27 69.25.050 on or after January 1, 2026, must include proof that all
28 eggs and egg products provided in intrastate commerce by the
29 applicant are produced by commercial egg layer operations that are
30 either:

31 (a) Approved under the (~~American humane association facility~~)
32 system plan and audit protocol (~~for enriched colony housing in~~
33 ~~effect on January 1, 2011~~) of the 2017 edition of the united egg
34 producers' animal husbandry guidelines for United States egg laying
35 flocks; guidelines for cage free housing, or a subsequent version of
36 the plan recognized by the department in rule and, in addition, are
37 operated to the standards identified in RCW 69.25.107; or

38 (b) Operated in strict compliance with any standards, adopted by
39 the department in rule, that are equivalent to or more stringent than
40 the standards identified in (a) of this subsection.

1 (5) The following are exempt from the requirements of subsections
2 (2) and (3) of this section:

3 (a) Applicants with fewer than three thousand laying chickens;
4 and

5 (b) Commercial egg layer operations when producing eggs or egg
6 products from turkeys, ducks, geese, guineas, or other species of
7 fowl other than domestic chickens.

8 **Sec. 2.** RCW 69.25.107 and 2011 c 306 s 5 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (1) All commercial egg layer operations required under RCW
11 69.25.065 to meet the American humane association facility system
12 plan, or an equivalent to the plan, must also ensure that all hens in
13 the operation are provided with:

14 (a) No less than one hundred sixteen and three-tenths square
15 inches of space per hen; and

16 (b) Access to areas for nesting, scratching, and perching.

17 (2) All commercial egg layer operations required under this
18 chapter to meet the 2017 edition of the united egg producers' animal
19 husbandry guidelines for United States egg laying flocks; guidelines
20 for cage free housing, or an equivalent to the guidelines, must also
21 ensure that all hens in the operation are provided with:

22 (a) No less than one square foot of space per hen; and

23 (b) Access to areas for nesting, scratching, and perching.

24 (3) The requirements of this section apply for any commercial egg
25 layer operation on the same dates that RCW 69.25.065 requires
26 compliance with the American humane association facility system plan
27 or an equivalent to the plan, or the 2017 edition of the united egg
28 producers' animal husbandry guidelines for United States egg laying
29 flocks; guidelines for cage free housing or an equivalent to the
30 guidelines.

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