
**Agriculture & Natural Resources
Committee**

HB 1987

Brief Description: Developing a statewide food security strategy.

Sponsors: Representatives Reeves, Parshley, Pollet and Ramel.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Directs the Department of Agriculture to develop a Statewide Food Security Strategy.

Hearing Date: 2/21/25

Staff: Rebecca Lewis (786-7339).

Background:

The Department of Agriculture (WSDA) oversees, manages, regulates, and supports a variety of programs related to food safety and agriculture in the state. Programs administered by the WSDA address animal and livestock health, commodity inspection, food safety, food assistance, pesticide and fertilizer inspection, and business and marketing support.

Summary of Bill:

The Department of Agriculture WSDA must develop a Statewide Food Security Strategy (Strategy) with goals to end hunger, reduce environmental health disparities, and increase agricultural sustainability and resilience. In order to develop the Strategy, the WSDA must convene the following agencies:

- The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction;
- The Department of Health;

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- The Department of Social and Health Services;
- The State Conservation Commission;
- The Office of Farmland Preservation; and
- The Department of Ecology.

The WSDA must also consult with a variety of other experts on agricultural resilience and food access when developing the strategy.

The Strategy must define food security in terms of food access and affordability and must address a variety of aspects of food security. These aspects include:

1. identifying ways to build statewide agricultural resilience by identifying support land access, maintenance, and use for agricultural production, and adaptability in agricultural practices; and
2. building long-term food security in several ways including through identifying ways to enhance nutrition, health, and food security education, research, and access, and encourage urban agriculture.

The WSDA must provide the Strategy to the Legislature by July 1, 2027.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Preliminary fiscal note available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.