
Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee

HB 2619

Brief Description: Reducing regulatory stress in agriculture.

Sponsors: Representatives Dent, Schmick, Barnard and Lekanoff.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Creates a joint legislative task force to review and recommend ways to streamline, eliminate, or modify regulations related to land use and zoning, stewardship of water resources, grazing rights, and pesticides.

Hearing Date: 1/30/26

Staff: Rebecca Lewis (786-7339).

Background:

In 2024, the Department of Agriculture (WSDA) was directed to convene, staff, and co-chair a work group consisting of legislators, representatives from agricultural associations, mental health care providers, and members from the WSDA to address mental health and suicide prevention in the agricultural sector. The work group submitted a required final report to the Legislature in 2025 that contained a series of recommendations, some of which related to exploring and streamlining regulatory processes.

Summary of Bill:

A joint legislative task force is created to review aspects of the regulatory environment that lead to agricultural producer stress and provide recommendations to streamline, eliminate, or modify existing regulations related to land use and zoning, stewardship of water resources, grazing

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rights, and pesticides. The task force must submit its findings and recommendations to the appropriate committees of the Legislature by November 1, 2028.

The task force is composed of one member from each of the largest caucuses of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House, and the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate, as well as the following agency members or their respective designees:

- the Director of the Department of Agriculture;
- the Director of the Department of Commerce;
- the Director of the Department of Ecology;
- the Commissioner of Public Lands;
- the Director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife;
- the Director of the Governor's Office of Regulatory Innovation and Assistance;
- the Secretary of Health; and
- the Director of the Department of Labor and Industries.

The task force must choose its chair from among its legislative membership. Pending election of the chair, the two appointed legislative members with the most years of legislative service shall jointly set an agreed date, time, and location to convene the initial task force meeting. Staff support for the task force must be provided by Senate Committee Services and the Office of Program Research.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 22, 2026

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