

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5454

As of February 10, 2025

Title: An act relating to extending the dairy inspection program until June 30, 2031.

Brief Description: Extending the dairy inspection program until June 30, 2031.

Sponsors: Senators Chapman, Shewmake, Short, Lovick, Dozier, Hasegawa, Lias and Nobles.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Agriculture & Natural Resources: 2/10/25.

<p>Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extends the expiration date for the assessment on milk processed in the state from June 30, 2025, to June 30, 2031.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Staff: Elena Becker (786-7493)

Background: To ship fluid milk and milk products across state lines, the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) administers a Milk Inspection Program to maintain compliance with the Grade A Interstate Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) published by the United States Public Health Service, United States Department of Health and Human Services, and the United States Food and Drug Administration. The PMO is the national standard for milk sanitation, and it requires milk processing plants to be inspected at least once every three months.

Current law provides for a milk assessment to be levied on the first milk processing plant that receives milk for processing. The assessment is paid to a dairy inspection account under the Agricultural Local Fund, and the funds are used for dairy inspection services under WSDA's Food Safety Program. The assessment may not exceed \$0.0054 per hundredweight.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The assessment expires on June 30, 2025.

Summary of Bill: The expiration date for the assessment on milk processed in the state is extended from June 30, 2025, to June 30, 2031.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect on June 30, 2025.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This bill ensures that milk can be shipped across state lines and ensures the supply chain and processing of milk and milk products remains safe. It is very important to dairy farmers and processors. The bill doesn't modify the assessment, just extends what's currently happening.

OTHER: Signed in other because this isn't agency request. This program ensures milk can be shipped across state lines.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Mike Chapman, Prime Sponsor; Natalie Doelman, Washington State Dairy Federation; Ben Buchholz, Darigold.

OTHER: Laura Butler, WSDA.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.