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HOUSE BILL 2238

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State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

**By** Representatives Reeves, Gregerson, Doglio, Parshley, Ramel, Simmons, Peterson, Obras, Santos, Scott, Thomas, Stonier, Morgan, Ormsby, Berg, Goodman, Thai, Farivar, Fosse, Bergquist, Hill, Pollet, Donaghy, Bernbaum, Wylie, and Zahn

Prefiled 01/02/26. Read first time 01/12/26. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to statewide food security; amending RCW  
2 43.23.030; creating new sections; and providing expiration dates.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature intends to provide for  
5 the development of a strategy for statewide food security in order to  
6 end hunger, reduce diet-related health disparities, and increase  
7 agricultural viability and supply chain resilience.

8 (2) This section expires July 1, 2028.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.23.030 and 1985 c 457 s 15 are each amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 (1) The director of agriculture shall exercise all the powers and  
12 perform all the duties relating to the development of markets, for  
13 agricultural products, state and federal cooperative marketing  
14 programs, land utilization for agricultural purposes, water  
15 resources, transportation, and farm labor as such matters relate to  
16 the production, distribution, and sale of agricultural commodities  
17 including private sector cultured aquatic products as defined in RCW  
18 15.85.020.

19 (2) The director of agriculture shall exercise all the powers and  
20 perform all duties necessary to monitor food system performance and

1 coordinate statewide food security, including working collaboratively  
2 with state, local, and federal agencies; tribes; nonprofit  
3 organizations; research institutions; and industry experts with roles  
4 and responsibilities pertaining to agricultural resilience and food  
5 access.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The department shall develop a  
7 strategy to enhance statewide food security in order to end hunger,  
8 reduce health disparities, and increase agricultural viability and  
9 supply chain resilience.

10 (2) (a) The department shall convene the office of the  
11 superintendent of public instruction, the department of health, the  
12 department of social and health services, the state conservation  
13 commission, the office of farmland preservation, the department of  
14 ecology, the University of Washington, Washington State University,  
15 members of the food policy forum, and nonprofit hunger relief  
16 organizations to develop the strategy. The department must also  
17 consult with nonprofit, research, public sector, and private sector  
18 experts on agricultural resilience and food access.

19 (b) The department shall notify and engage federally recognized  
20 tribes regularly throughout the development of the strategy.

21 (3) At a minimum, the strategy must:

22 (a) Define statewide food security in terms of food access,  
23 agricultural viability, and supply chain resilience;

24 (b) Develop metrics and a methodology to monitor food system  
25 performance across the three key indicator areas: Agricultural  
26 viability, supply chain resilience, and food access. The monitoring  
27 system must include a framework for maintaining annually updated data  
28 for all state and federal investments across Washington's hunger  
29 safety net, including utilization rates and available demographic  
30 data;

31 (c) Build agricultural viability and supply chain resilience by:

32 (i) Identifying opportunities to address state policy and  
33 regulatory barriers to food production and supply chain coordination;

34 (ii) Establishing a communication network and clarity of roles  
35 across Washington's food system that support effective response  
36 during disaster, with prioritized, coordinated outreach to impacted  
37 producers and consumers; and

- 1           (iii) Taking a proproducer, antihunger systems approach to  
2 coordinate agency actions and awareness across Washington's food  
3 system; and
- 4           (d) Build long-term food security by:
- 5           (i) Supporting nutrition education and food system literacy for  
6 all;
- 7           (ii) Ensuring coordinated strategies for assessing,  
8 communicating, and addressing gaps in food access due to changes in  
9 supply or demand of hunger safety net; and
- 10           (iii) Enhancing nutrition and food security research to support  
11 measurable reduction in diet-related health disparities.
- 12           (4) The department shall provide the statewide food security  
13 strategy, in conformance with RCW 43.01.036, to the appropriate  
14 committees of the legislature by December 1, 2027.
- 15           (5) For the purposes of this section, "department" means the  
16 department of agriculture.
- 17           (6) This section expires July 1, 2028.

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