
HOUSE BILL 2619

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Representatives Dent, Schmick, Barnard, and Lekanoff

Read first time 01/22/26. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to reducing regulatory stress in agriculture;
2 creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the
5 agricultural industry is an integral part of Washington's economy and
6 that the behavioral health of agricultural producers and workers and
7 their family members is a statewide concern. Further, the legislature
8 finds that the state has made progress since the 2018 creation of the
9 task force on behavioral health and suicide prevention in the
10 agricultural industry in identifying potential stressors on
11 agricultural producers and workers in order to recommend ways to
12 alleviate stress in the agricultural community. This work continued
13 through the mental health and suicide prevention for agricultural
14 producers and workers work group, which submitted a 2025 report to
15 the legislature, identifying regulatory challenges unique to farming
16 operations as one of many stressors and recommending further study
17 into ways to reduce these burdens. The legislature, therefore,
18 intends to create a joint legislative task force on reducing
19 regulatory stress for agricultural producers to evaluate and
20 recommend ways to streamline, eliminate, or modify existing
21 regulations that apply to various aspects of agricultural production.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1)(a) A joint legislative task force on
2 reducing regulatory stress for agricultural producers is established,
3 with members as provided in this subsection:

4 (i) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the
5 senate, appointed by the president of the senate;

6 (ii) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the
7 house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house;

8 (iii) The director of the department of agriculture, or the
9 director's designee;

10 (iv) The director of the department of commerce, or the
11 director's designee;

12 (v) The director of the department of ecology, or the director's
13 designee;

14 (iv) The commissioner of public lands, or the commissioner's
15 designee;

16 (v) The director of the department of fish and wildlife, or the
17 director's designee;

18 (vi) The director of the governor's office of regulatory
19 innovation and assistance, or the director's designee;

20 (vii) The secretary of health, or the secretary's designee; and

21 (viii) The director of the department of labor and industries, or
22 the director's designee.

23 (b) The joint legislative task force shall choose its chair from
24 among its legislative membership. The two members appointed to the
25 joint legislative task force from the house of representatives and
26 the senate with the most years of legislative service shall jointly
27 confer immediately following the effective date of this section to
28 set an agreed date, time, and location to convene the initial meeting
29 of the task force, pending election of a chair.

30 (2) The joint legislative task force shall review aspects of the
31 regulatory environment that lead to agricultural producer stress, and
32 recommend actions to alleviate agricultural producer stress by
33 streamlining, eliminating, or modifying existing regulations related
34 to:

35 (a) Land use and zoning;

36 (b) Stewardship of water resources;

37 (c) Grazing rights; and

38 (d) Pesticides.

1 (3) Staff support for the joint legislative task force shall be
2 provided by the senate committee services and the house of
3 representatives office of program research.

4 (4) Legislative members of the joint legislative task force are
5 reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120.
6 Nonlegislative members are not entitled to be reimbursed for travel
7 expenses if they are elected officials or are participating on behalf
8 of an employer, governmental entity, or other organization. Any
9 reimbursement for other nonlegislative members is subject to chapter
10 43.03 RCW.

11 (5) The expenses of the joint legislative task force shall be
12 paid jointly by the senate and the house of representatives. Joint
13 legislative task force expenditures are subject to approval by the
14 senate facilities and operations committee and the house of
15 representatives executive rules committee, or their successor
16 committees.

17 (6) The joint legislative task force shall report its findings
18 and recommendations to the appropriate committees of the legislature
19 in conformance with RCW 43.01.036 by November 1, 2028.

20 (7) This section expires June 30, 2029.

--- END ---