
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5117

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Senators Muzzall, Braun, Chapman, Christian, Dozier, King, Schoesler, Short, Wagoner, Warnick, and J. Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to protecting agriculture; and adding a new
2 chapter to Title 43 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes the
5 significant contributions of the state's second largest economic
6 driver and the people who are its heartbeat: Agriculture. The
7 legislature also recognizes the tremendous pressure the agricultural
8 community is under from many sources outside of its control. As such,
9 the legislature seeks to support the people of our agricultural
10 community by alleviating at least one of those burdens by
11 acknowledging that policy decisions can have an impact on their daily
12 lives. The legislature aspires to foster a variety of agricultural
13 enterprises of diverse sizes, interests, and means of operation, and
14 recognizes the most meaningful way of doing so is through an analysis
15 of how ongoing policy decisions are or will affect the ability of
16 Washingtonians to continue to produce food for themselves and the
17 world.

18 (2) The legislature declares that it is the continuing policy of
19 the state of Washington, in cooperation with federal, tribal, and
20 local governments and other concerned public and private
21 organizations, to use such means and measures, including financial

1 and technical assistance, in a manner calculated to: (a) Promote a
2 stable food supply by maintaining a healthy agricultural economy in
3 Washington state; and (b) ensure that the regulatory environment does
4 not adversely affect the ability of Washington's farmers to continue
5 to grow and sell their products to feed citizens of Washington state
6 and the world.

7 (3) In order to carry out the policy set forth in this chapter,
8 the legislature finds it is the continuing responsibility of the
9 state of Washington and all agencies of the state to use such
10 practicable means, consistent with other essential considerations of
11 state policy, to improve and coordinate plans, functions, programs,
12 and resources in order to:

13 (a) Promote agriculture while protecting public health and
14 welfare;

15 (b) Provide opportunities for farmers and ranchers to utilize
16 agricultural land to produce agricultural products;

17 (c) Aid farmers and landowners in utilizing the land for the best
18 combination of production, habitat, carbon sequestration, and any
19 combination of commercial and conservation activities; and

20 (d) Preserve important historical, cultural, and natural aspects
21 of our local, state, and national heritage of agriculture.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1)(a) The director of financial
23 management or the director's designee, in cooperation with
24 appropriate legislative committees and legislative staff, must
25 establish a mechanism for the determination of the fiscal impact of
26 proposed legislation which, if enacted into law, would directly or
27 indirectly increase or decrease regulatory costs incurred by entities
28 engaged in agriculture. The office of financial management shall,
29 when requested by a member of the state legislature, report in
30 writing as to the fiscal impact and the report may be known as a
31 fiscal note.

32 (b) For purposes of this subsection, "entities engaged in
33 agriculture" includes entities registered with the office of the
34 secretary of state as engaged in the manufacturing, production, or
35 processing of agricultural products.

36 (2) Fiscal notes must indicate by fiscal year the total impact on
37 the agricultural economy for the first two years the legislation
38 would be in effect and also a cumulative six-year forecast of the
39 fiscal impact. Where feasible and applicable, the fiscal note must

1 also indicate the fiscal impact on each industry or a representative
2 sampling of the industry broadly.

3 (3) A fiscal note must be provided only upon request of a member
4 of the state legislature. A request for a fiscal note on legislation
5 is considered to be a continuing request for a fiscal note on any
6 formal alteration of the legislation in the form of an amendment to
7 the legislation that are adopted by a committee or a chamber of the
8 legislature or a substitute version of the legislation that is
9 adopted by a committee and preparation of the fiscal note on the
10 prior version of the legislation must stop, unless the legislator
11 requesting the fiscal note specifies otherwise or the altered version
12 is first adopted or enacted in the last week of a legislative
13 session.

14 (4) Fiscal notes must be completed within one week of the request
15 unless an extended time period is authorized by the requesting
16 legislator. In the event a fiscal note has not been completed within
17 one week of a request, a daily report must be prepared for the
18 requesting legislator by the director of financial management. The
19 daily report must summarize the progress in preparing the fiscal
20 note. If the request is referred to the director of commerce, the
21 daily report must also include the date and time such a referral is
22 made.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This chapter may be known and cited as the
24 food economics, availability, and security over time (FEAST) act.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act
26 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

--- END ---