

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT  
**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2238**

Chapter 83, Laws of 2026

69th Legislature  
2026 Regular Session

STATEWIDE FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 11, 2026

Passed by the House February 10, 2026  
Yeas 83 Nays 12

LAURIE JINKINS

**Speaker of the House of  
Representatives**

Passed by the Senate March 5, 2026  
Yeas 45 Nays 3

DENNY HECK

**President of the Senate**

Approved March 17, 2026 4:12 PM

BOB FERGUSON

**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2238** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BERNARD DEAN

**Chief Clerk**

FILED

March 18, 2026

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2238**

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Passed Legislature - 2026 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      69th Legislature                      2026 Regular Session**

**By** House Agriculture & Natural Resources (originally sponsored 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)

READ FIRST TIME 01/23/26.

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. When evaluating food system performance, the director shall  
6 consider metrics that, at a minimum, relate to monitoring and  
7 quantifying regulatory costs imposed by the state of Washington on  
8 fuel, packaging, and labor. Beginning June 30, 2030, the department  
9 shall report to the legislature at least once every four years, in  
10 compliance with RCW 43.01.036, on the competitiveness of Washington's  
11 agricultural regulatory landscape relative to peer state competitors  
12 for the commodity types prevalent in Washington's in-state  
13 agricultural economy.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The department shall develop a  
15 strategy to enhance statewide food security by recommending measures  
16 the legislature could take to make food more affordable, and, only to  
17 the extent relevant data is readily available from existing sources,  
18 related measures that have the potential to reduce the number of  
19 Washingtonians in need of food assistance, in order to end hunger,  
20 reduce health disparities, and increase agricultural viability and  
21 supply chain resilience.

22 (2) (a) The department shall convene the office of the  
23 superintendent of public instruction, the department of health, the  
24 department of social and health services, the state conservation  
25 commission, the office of farmland preservation, the department of  
26 ecology, the University of Washington, Washington State University,  
27 members of the food policy forum, and nonprofit hunger relief  
28 organizations to develop the strategy. The department must also  
29 consult with nonprofit, research, public sector, and private sector  
30 experts on agricultural resilience, food access, and poverty  
31 reduction individuals who have direct lived experience in a food  
32 insecure household with at least one member from the BIPOC community,  
33 and small farmers in Washington who are members of the BIPOC  
34 community.

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

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

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

1 (b) Develop metrics and a methodology to monitor food system  
2 performance across the three key indicator areas: Agricultural  
3 viability, supply chain resilience, and food access. The monitoring  
4 system must include a framework for maintaining annually updated data  
5 for all state and federal investments across Washington's hunger  
6 safety net, including utilization rates and available demographic  
7 data. Agricultural viability performance metrics must include, but  
8 not be limited to, tracking the cost of fuel and labor using data  
9 available to state agencies or supplied from voluntary industry  
10 surveys, and must include a calculation of the incremental cost to  
11 these key agricultural inputs from Washington state-specific laws and  
12 regulations;

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

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

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

20 (iii) Taking a proproducer, antihunger systems approach to  
21 coordinate agency actions and awareness across Washington's food  
22 system; and

23 (d) Build long-term food security by:

24 (i) Supporting nutrition education and food system literacy for  
25 all;

26 (ii) Ensuring coordinated strategies for assessing,  
27 communicating, and addressing gaps in food access due to changes in  
28 supply or demand of hunger safety net;

29 (iii) Enhancing nutrition and food security research to support  
30 measurable reduction in diet-related health disparities; and

31 (iv) Identifying and addressing the root cause of hunger in  
32 Washington, only to the extent relevant data is readily available  
33 from existing sources.

34 (4) The department shall provide the statewide food security  
35 strategy, in conformance with RCW 43.01.036, to the appropriate  
36 committees of the legislature by December 1, 2027.

37 (5) For the purposes of this section, "department" means the  
38 department of agriculture.

39 (6) This section expires July 1, 2028.

Passed by the House February 10, 2026.  
Passed by the Senate March 5, 2026.  
Approved by the Governor March 17, 2026.  
Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 18, 2026.

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