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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2723**

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**State of Washington**

**54th Legislature**

**1996 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Agriculture & Ecology (originally sponsored by Representatives Chandler and Chappell)

Read first time 02/02/96.

1 AN ACT Relating to agriculture; and adding a new section to chapter  
2 49.17 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 49.17 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The legislature finds that the production, processing, and  
7 distribution of agricultural products involves a variety of activities,  
8 some of which are very closely related to the production and harvesting  
9 of the products by farmers and some of which are more closely related  
10 to the handling of finished commercial goods. The legislature further  
11 finds that the department needs guidance in determining when activities  
12 related to agricultural products are to be regulated under this chapter  
13 as agricultural operations under safety standards for agriculture  
14 referred to in RCW 49.17.041 and when they should be regulated as other  
15 activities under other safety standards. For this purpose, an  
16 agricultural operation is to be interpreted broadly, based on the  
17 definition of "agriculture" provided by subsection (2) of this section.

18 (2) For the purposes of subsection (1) of this section,  
19 "agriculture" means farming in all its branches and, among other

1 things, includes but is not limited to the cultivation and tillage of  
2 the soil and dairying; the production, cultivation, growing, and  
3 harvesting of any agricultural or horticultural commodity, including  
4 but not limited to a commodity that is a private sector cultured  
5 aquatic product as defined in RCW 15.85.020; the raising of livestock,  
6 bees, fur-bearing animals, or poultry; and any practices, including but  
7 not limited to forestry or lumbering operations, performed by a farmer  
8 or on a farm as an incident to or in conjunction with such farming  
9 operations, including but not limited to preparation for market, and  
10 delivery to storage or to market or to carriers for transportation to  
11 market.

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