

SENATE BILL 5198

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senators Barr, Gaspard, Madsen, Amondson, Nelson, Metcalf, Bailey, Hansen, Conner, Wojahn, Snyder and Rasmussen.

Read first time January 23, 1991. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Water Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to aquatic animal health; adding a new chapter to
2 Title 15 RCW; and making appropriations.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature has recognized that
5 aquaculture is a branch of the agriculture industry; farmed fish and
6 shellfish are among the top fifteen agricultural commodities in
7 Washington state with an annual production value of forty-two million
8 dollars; there is an increased demand world-wide for fish and fish
9 products; and Washington state aquatic animal producers play a
10 significant role in the world market for aquacultural products and in
11 the economy of the state.

12 The legislature further recognizes that confined public and private
13 farmed fish and shellfish are substantially vulnerable and sensitive to
14 the risk of diseases. To ensure the highest levels of production, for
15 both the public and private sectors, identification and treatment of

1 these diseases is imperative. There are insufficient diagnostic,
2 certification, and extension services available to Washington's aquatic
3 animal industry; and there is no complete training program provided at
4 any Washington state institution of higher education to educate
5 professionals in the areas of aquatic animal health, diagnostics, and
6 certification.

7 Therefore, the legislature finds that it is in the best interest of
8 the state to develop aquatic animal diagnostic and extension services
9 and curricula within the state, and to provide state veterinarianian
10 certification for aquatic animal products, as is currently done for the
11 livestock industry. It is the intent of the legislature that in
12 consultation with the aquaculture industry, Washington State
13 University, the University of Washington, and the department of
14 agriculture cooperate in the development of such services and
15 curricula.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of agriculture shall
17 contract with Washington State University to establish and operate an
18 aquatic animal health diagnostic and extension laboratory and
19 certification service at the Washington State University research and
20 extension center at Puyallup.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Washington State University, in
22 cooperation with the University of Washington, shall establish a
23 training program in the field of aquatic animal health and disease.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act shall
25 constitute a new chapter in Title 15 RCW.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The sum of six hundred seventy-three
2 thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
3 appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 1993, from the general
4 fund to the department of agriculture to carry out the purposes of
5 section 2 of this act. Of this amount (a) five hundred twenty-three
6 thousand dollars is provided solely for staffing and operating the
7 diagnostic and extension laboratory established under section 2 of this
8 act; and (b) one hundred fifty thousand dollars is provided solely for
9 any remodeling of the Washington State University research and
10 extension center at Puyallup and the purchase of start-up equipment
11 necessary to carry out the purpose of section 2 of this act.

12 (2) The sum of fifty-four thousand dollars, or as much thereof as
13 may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium ending June 30,
14 1993, from the general fund to the Washington State University to carry
15 out the purposes of section 3 of this act.

16 (3) No amounts appropriated under this section may be expended
17 until at least twenty-seven thousand dollars or in-kind contributions
18 of services, facilities, or materials from nonstate sources has been
19 contributed for the purposes of section 3 of this act.