
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1834

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By House Committee on Agriculture & Ecology (originally sponsored by Representatives Chandler, Linville and Schoesler)

Read first time 02/25/97.

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 state's highly productive and
7 efficient agricultural sector is composed predominately of family owned
8 and managed farms and an industrious and efficient work force. In
9 addition, the legislature finds that the state's farms are diverse in
10 their nature and the owners, managers, and their employees continually
11 find new ways to plant, raise, harvest, process, store, market, and
12 distribute their products. The legislature further finds that the
13 department needs guidance in determining when activities related to
14 agricultural products are to be regulated under this chapter as
15 agricultural operations under safety standards for agriculture referred
16 to in RCW 49.17.041 and when they should be regulated as other
17 activities under other safety standards. It is the intent of the
18 legislature that activities performed by a farmer or on a farm
19 incidental to or in conjunction with farming operations be regulated as

1 agricultural activities. For this purpose, an agricultural operation
2 is to be interpreted broadly, based on the definition of "agriculture"
3 provided by subsection (2) of this section.

4 (2) For the purposes of subsection (1) of this section,
5 "agriculture" means farming in all its branches and, among other
6 things, includes but is not limited to the cultivation and tillage of
7 the soil and dairying; the production, cultivation, growing, and
8 harvesting of any agricultural or horticultural commodity, including
9 but not limited to a commodity that is a private sector cultured
10 aquatic product as defined in RCW 15.85.020; the raising of livestock,
11 bees, fur-bearing animals, or poultry; and any practices, performed by
12 a farmer or on a farm as an incident to or in conjunction with such
13 farming operations, including but not limited to preparation for
14 market, and delivery to storage or to market or to carriers for
15 transportation to market. For the purposes of subsection (1) of this
16 section, "agriculture" does not mean a farmer's processing for sale or
17 handling for sale a commodity or product grown or produced by a person
18 other than the farmer or the farmer's employees.

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