

2618-S

Sponsor(s): House Committee on Agriculture & Ecology (originally sponsored by Representatives Chandler, Linville, O'Brien, Costa and Sump; by request of Governor Locke)

Brief Title: Adopting the fertilizer regulation act.

HB 2618-S - DIGEST

(SUBSTITUTED FOR - SEE 2ND SUB)

Declares an intent to strengthen the state's fertilizer adulteration laws to protect human health and the environment by:
(1) Ensuring that all fertilizers meet standards for allowable metals;

(2) allowing fertilizer purchasers and users to know about the contents of fertilizer products; and

(3) clarifying the department of ecology's oversight authority over waste-derived fertilizers.

Directs the department of agriculture to conduct a comprehensive study of plant uptake of metals. The department shall work cooperatively with the department of ecology and the department of health to interpret the study results regarding potential impacts to public and environmental health. A report of the results of the study shall be submitted to appropriate committees of the legislature by December 31, 2000.

Directs the department of ecology, in conjunction with the departments of agriculture and health, to undertake a study of whether dioxins occur in fertilizers, soil amendments, and soils and if so, at what levels. The department of ecology shall seek additional financial and technical assistance from appropriate federal agencies, the fertilizer industry, and other appropriate sources in conducting this study. The department of ecology shall report its findings to the legislature in November 1998.

Repeals RCW 15.54.335 and RCW 70.95.830.