

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 2868

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### As Passed Legislature

**Title:** An act relating to electronic forms of warehouse receipts.

**Brief Description:** Allowing electronic warehouse receipts.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Ericksen and Linville.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Agriculture & Ecology: 1/28/00, 2/1/00 [DP].

**Floor Activity:**

Passed House: 2/8/00, 97-0.

Passed Senate: 3/2/00, 44-0.

Passed Legislature.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Brief Summary of Bill</b></p> <p>· Allows warehouse receipts to be issued in an electronic form.</p>
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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ECOLOGY

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 12 members: Representatives G. Chandler, Republican Co-Chair; Linville, Democratic Co-Chair; Cooper, Democratic Vice Chair; Koster, Republican Vice Chair; Anderson; B. Chandler; Delvin; Fortunato; Grant; Reardon; Schoesler and Wood.

**Staff:** Bill Lynch (786-7092).

**Background:**

Article 7 of the Uniform Commercial Code governs warehouse receipts, bills of lading, and other documents of title. A warehouseman is a person who stores goods for hire and is authorized to issue warehouse receipts. Warehouse receipts are generally negotiable.

A warehouse receipt is not required to be in any particular form. There is a requirement, however, for a warehouse receipt to contain certain terms in written or printed form in order for a warehouseman to avoid liability to a person injured by the omission of the terms. Some of these terms include the location of the warehouse where the goods are stored; the date of issue of the receipt; and a description of the goods. The Uniform Commercial Code does not authorize electronic warehouse receipts.

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**Summary of Bill:**

Warehouse receipts, as defined in Article 7 of the Uniform Commercial Code, may be issued in an electronic form.

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**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date of Bill:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** This modernizes practices by allowing customers who want an immediate receipt to get one. It also saves businesses a lot of money in mailing and transaction costs. One warehouse issued 105,000 warehouse receipts last year.

**Testimony Against:** None

**Testified:** Representative Doug Ericksen, prime sponsor; and Sheryl Hershey, Bellingham Cold Storage.