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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5957
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State of Washington   **56th Legislature**   **1999 Regular Session**

By Senate Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development
(originally sponsored by Senators Johnson, B. Sheldon, McDonald, Hale,
Deccio, Costa, Wojahn and Roach)

Read first time 03/03/1999.

1   AN ACT Relating to food labeling; creating new sections; and
2 providing an expiration date.

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

4   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that retaining and
5 enhancing economic viability of farms is vital to improving the
6 prosperity of our rural economies. The legislature finds that farm
7 land will not be retained unless farming operations are profitable. In
8 order to improve the profitability of farms, market demand for the
9 agricultural products needs to be enhanced.
10   The legislature further finds that consumers are increasingly
11 concerned about the variety of growing conditions, additives, and
12 residues that may result from food growth and production methods in
13 other countries and are demanding more information about the country of
14 origin of the food products they consume.
15   The purpose of this act is to explore ways to improve consumer
16 information, consumer choice, and market demand for domestically grown
17 agricultural products, including a "Grown in Washington" promotional
18 program and country of origin labeling.

1   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A food labeling task force is created.
2 The task force shall be comprised of fourteen members, who are
3 appointed as follows:
4   (a) Two members of the house of representatives, one from each
5 major caucus, appointed by the co-speakers of the house of
6 representatives;
7   (b) Two members of the senate, one from each major caucus,
8 appointed by the president of the senate;
9   (c) A representative of the department of agriculture, appointed by
10 the director of agriculture;
11   (d) A representative of fruit growers, appointed by agreement of
12 the co-speakers of the house of representatives and the president of
13 the senate;
14   (e) A representative of vegetable growers, appointed by agreement
15 of the co-speakers of the house of representatives and the president of
16 the senate;
17   (f) A representative of meat producers, appointed by agreement of
18 the co-speakers of the house of representatives and the president of
19 the senate;
20   (g) A representative of poultry producers, appointed by agreement
21 of the co-speakers of the house of representatives and the president of
22 the senate;
23   (h) A representative of fish growers, appointed by agreement of the
24 co-speakers of the house of representatives and the president of the
25 senate;
26   (i) A representative of food retailers, appointed by agreement of
27 the co-speakers of the house of representatives and the president of
28 the senate;
29   (j) A representative of food wholesalers, appointed by agreement of
30 the co-speakers of the house of representatives and the president of
31 the senate;
32   (k) A representative of food manufacturers, appointed by agreement
33 of the co-speakers of the house of representatives and the president of
34 the senate; and
35   (l) A representative of the dairy industry appointed by the dairy
36 products commission.
37   (2) The task force shall convene as soon as possible upon
38 appointment of its members. The task force shall elect a chair and
39 adopt rules for conducting the business of the task force. The house

1 of representatives office of program research and senate committee
2 services shall provide staff support for the task force.
3   (3) The task force shall conduct an inquiry into and, by December
4 10, 1999, make recommendations to the legislature regarding:
5   (a) Country of origin labeling, for retail sale to the ultimate
6 consumer, of agricultural products including bulk fruits and
7 vegetables, meats, poultry, fish, and milk products; and
8   (b) The feasibility of developing a "Grown in Washington"
9 promotional program for agricultural products produced in Washington
10 state.
11   (4) This section expires December 31, 1999.

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