
BILL REQUEST - CODE REVISER'S OFFICE

BILL REQ. #: H-4452.1/02

ATTY/TYPIST: LL:seg

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

2 **SHB 2864** - H AMD
3 By Representative Linville

4

5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
6 following:

7 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that organic
8 agriculture is an important, and rapidly growing, segment of
9 Washington's agricultural industry. The production of organic
10 agricultural commodities requires specialized crop management that
11 differs from the procedures utilized by conventional growers. Organic
12 producers raise a variety of crops statewide, some of which are
13 currently under the purview of existing commodity commissions, while
14 others are not represented by any of the existing commodity
15 commissions. This arrangement causes some degree of confusion, overlap
16 of jurisdictions, and lack of representation. A possible solution to
17 these problems is the granting of legislative authority to organic
18 producers to form one, or multiple, organic food commissions. However,
19 the legislature finds that it should have an opportunity to review any
20 issues and conflicts that may surround the financing of an organic food
21 commission, the relationship of organic farming to the current
22 commodity commissions, and other possibilities for meeting the
23 promotion and research needs of organic growers.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The organic food study group is created
25 to study the issues raised in section 1 of this act.

26 (2) The organic food study group shall consist of four members, to
27 be comprised of two members from the senate, one from each caucus, to
28 be appointed by the president of the senate; and two members from the
29 house of representatives, one from each caucus, to be appointed by the
30 speaker of the house of representatives. The organic food study group
31 shall select a chair from its members.

32 (3) The expenses of the organic food study group shall be paid by
33 the legislature under chapter 44.04 RCW. Staff support for the
34 committee shall be provided by the senate committee services and house
35 of representatives office of program research and the study group may

1 also call upon any of the state agencies to assist in research and
2 provide information.

3 (4) The organic food study group may examine:

4 (a) The pros and cons of authorizing one or more organic food
5 commissions;

6 (b) Methods for funding one or more organic food commissions;

7 (c) Organic growers' needs for access to research and promotion
8 grants and funding;

9 (d) Options available to address the organic producer's need for
10 organic research and promotion that is currently being conducted by the
11 existing commodity commissions; and

12 (e) Any other issues deemed appropriate by the organic food study
13 group.

14 (5) The organic food study group shall meet at least once with
15 representatives from the major commodity commissions, any interested
16 growers of both organic and conventional crops, and any other parties
17 that may be invited by the chair to discuss the issues in the study
18 group's purview. The study group may hold additional meetings with
19 additional groups as deemed appropriate.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires December 31, 2002."

21 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Creates the organic food study group, composed of four
legislators, to study the issues surrounding the formation of an
organic food commission.

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