
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2325

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By House Committee on Agriculture & Ecology (originally sponsored by Representatives Wood, Schoesler, Gombosky, Kessler, Linville, Kagi and Esser)

Read first time 02/01/2002. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to donated food; adding a new section to chapter
2 69.80 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an effective date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds and declares that the
5 distribution of food by donors to charitable organizations, such as
6 shelters, churches, and fraternal organizations, serving communal meals
7 to needy individuals can be done safely consistent with recommended
8 health and safety guidelines. The establishment of recommended
9 guidelines by the state board of health can educate the public about
10 the preparation and handling of food donated to charities for
11 distribution to homeless and other needy people. A federal study found
12 that of three hundred fifty-six billion pounds of foodstuffs available
13 for consumption each year in America, at least ninety-six billion
14 pounds are squandered. The purpose of this act is to authorize and
15 facilitate the donation of food to needy persons in accordance with
16 safety and health guidelines to assure that the donated food will not
17 place needy recipients at risk and to encourage charitable
18 organizations, businesses, and individuals to donate surplus food to
19 charities serving our state's needy population.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 69.80 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) A donor may donate food in either raw, cooked, processed, or
4 prepared edible form to a distributing organization, including
5 charitable nonprofit organizations, or to the public, for the purpose
6 of serving needy persons if authorized by rule of the local board of
7 health pursuant to RCW 70.05.060(3). For this provision to apply, the
8 rule of the local board of health must be ratified, in consultation
9 with the local board of health, by the legislative authority of each
10 county, city, and town represented on the local board of health. This
11 provision does not apply to donations expressly prohibited by rule of
12 the state board of health.

13 (2) The state board of health shall promulgate recommended health
14 and safety guidelines for the donation, preparation, and distribution
15 of free food for the purposes of this chapter.

16 (3) In addition to the definition in this chapter, "donor," for the
17 purposes of this section, includes persons preparing food for and
18 participating in community potluck meals.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect January 1, 2003;
20 except that the promulgation by the state board of health of rules and
21 recommended guidelines for the health and safety for the donation,
22 preparation, and distribution of food is necessary for the immediate
23 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
24 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
25 immediately.

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