
HOUSE BILL 2325

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Representatives Wood, Schoesler, Gombosky, Kessler, Linville, Kagi and Esser

Read first time 01/14/2002. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Ecology.

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 free food by donors to charitable organizations, such
6 as shelters, churches, and fraternal organizations, serving communal
7 meals to needy individuals can be done safely consistent with
8 recommended health and safety guidelines. The establishment of
9 recommended guidelines by the state board of health can educate the
10 public about the preparation and handling of food donated to charities
11 for distribution to homeless and other needy people. A federal study
12 found that of three hundred fifty-six billion pounds of foodstuffs
13 available for consumption each year in America, at least ninety-six
14 billion pounds are squandered. The purpose of this act is to authorize
15 and 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) Except as expressly prohibited by rule by the state board of
4 health, and if authorized by rule of the local board of health pursuant
5 to RCW 70.05.060(3) and ratified by the legislative authority of each
6 county, city, and town represented on the local board, a donor may
7 donate food in either raw, cooked, processed, or prepared edible form,
8 free of charge, to a distributing organization, including charitable
9 nonprofit organizations, or to the public, for the purpose of serving
10 needy persons.

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

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

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