
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5897

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Agriculture & International Trade (originally sponsored by Senators Rasmussen, Shin, Parlette, Hale, Hewitt and Kohl-Welles)

READ FIRST TIME 02/27/01.

1 AN ACT Relating to international marketing of agriculture; adding
2 a new chapter to Title 15 RCW; and making appropriations.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the growing and
5 processing of food and agricultural products is the dominant industry
6 in Washington state and a major employer in rural Washington. The
7 legislature also finds that agriculture is a critical component of
8 Washington's international trade industry, accounting for billions of
9 dollars in exports every year.

10 The legislature further finds that the export market for
11 Washington's agricultural products has dropped significantly in recent
12 years and that such a drop has negatively impacted the economy in
13 Washington's agricultural regions. Therefore, it is the intent of the
14 legislature to enhance Washington's international trade of agricultural
15 products by increasing funding for the Washington state department of
16 agriculture's international marketing program in an effort to promote
17 marketing of Washington's products and to assist the agricultural
18 industry in efforts to reduce trade barriers that stand in the way of
19 trade in new and emerging markets.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** There is created a market development and
2 promotion matching fund program within the Washington state department
3 of agriculture. The purpose of the program is to allow the department
4 of agriculture and the agricultural industry to combine funds in order
5 to enhance access to markets that are growth sales areas for the
6 industry's product. The goal of the program is to expose buyers to
7 Washington's diverse agricultural products. The agriculture industry
8 may bring in buying missions, perform trade promotions in various
9 markets, hire overseas contractors, and perform other marketing
10 functions that help it target the correct buyer and market for its
11 product.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The sum of two hundred fifty thousand
13 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
14 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, from the general fund to the
15 department of agriculture for the purposes of the marketing development
16 and promotion matching fund program created in section 2 of this act.

17 (2) The sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars, or as much
18 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending
19 June 30, 2003, from the general fund to the department of agriculture
20 for the purposes of the marketing development and promotion matching
21 fund program created in section 2 of this act.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The legislature finds that trade
23 barriers have become an increasingly important issue in the
24 agricultural arena. Further, the world trade organization highlighted
25 the need for "a fair and level playing field." The legislature finds
26 that both large and small commodity groups need adequate resources to
27 address trade barrier issues.

28 (2) There is created within the department of agriculture a trade
29 barrier matching fund program to assist agriculture industries in
30 fighting trade barriers. The purpose of the program is to allow the
31 department of agriculture and the agricultural industry to combine
32 funds in order to address trade barriers issues impacting the
33 agricultural industry.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The sum of two hundred fifty thousand
35 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
36 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, from the general fund to the

1 department of agriculture for the purposes of the trade barrier
2 matching fund program created in section 4 of this act.

3 (2) The sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars, or as much
4 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending
5 June 30, 2003, from the general fund to the department of agriculture
6 for the purposes of the trade barrier matching fund program created in
7 section 4 of this act.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The Washington state department of
9 agriculture finds that there is a need for an eastern Washington trade
10 specialist, along with administrative support. The goal of this
11 specialist is to allow the department of agriculture to provide greater
12 service and work more in-depth with all agricultural groups.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) The sum of one hundred twenty-five
14 thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
15 appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, from the general
16 fund to the department of agriculture for the purposes of section 6 of
17 this act.

18 (2) The sum of one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars, or as much
19 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending
20 June 30, 2003, from the general fund to the department of agriculture
21 for the purposes of section 6 of this act.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The department of agriculture shall provide
23 a biennial report to the legislature of each of the activities that
24 received funding assistance under this chapter and the results of each
25 of those activities. The report shall include an estimate of the
26 amount of increased sales of state-produced agricultural products, and
27 the amount of state, commodity commission, and other funds that were
28 utilized for each activity. The report shall be transmitted to the
29 secretary of the senate and the chief clerk of the house of
30 representatives by December 15th of each even-numbered year.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** The department of agriculture may adopt
32 rules necessary to implement this chapter.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** Sections 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, and 9 of this act
2 constitute a new chapter in Title 15 RCW.

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