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**SENATE BILL 5897**

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**State of Washington**

**57th Legislature**

**2001 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Rasmussen, Shin, Parlette, Hale, Hewitt and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 02/07/2001. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & International Trade.

1 AN ACT Relating to international marketing of agriculture; creating  
2 new sections; 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 hire a contractor for markets that are growth sales areas for a  
6 certain sector of the industry's product.    The goal of the program is  
7 to expose buyers to Washington's diverse agricultural products.    The  
8 agriculture industry may bring in buying missions, perform trade  
9 promotions in various markets, and perform other marketing functions  
10 that help it target the correct buyer and market for its product.

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

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

21        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    Trade barriers have become an increasingly  
22 important issue in the agricultural arena.    The world trade  
23 organization highlighted the need for "a fair and level playing field."  
24 In the Washington state department of agriculture's experience, both  
25 large and small commodity groups need money to address this issue.  
26 There is created within the department of agriculture a trade barrier  
27 matching fund program to assist agriculture industries in fighting  
28 trade barriers.    It is within the sole discretion of the department of  
29 agriculture as to how funds are to be distributed under this program.

30        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    (1) The sum of two hundred fifty thousand  
31 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for  
32 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, from the general fund to the  
33 department of agriculture for the purposes of the trade barrier  
34 matching fund program created in section 4 of this act.

35        (2) The sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars, or as much  
36 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending

1 June 30, 2003, from the general fund to the department of agriculture  
2 for the purposes of the trade barrier matching fund program created in  
3 section 4 of this act.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The Washington state department of  
5 agriculture finds that there is a need for an eastern Washington trade  
6 specialist, along with administrative support. This trade specialist  
7 must be based in Moses Lake, Washington. The goal of this specialist  
8 is to allow the department of agriculture to provide greater service  
9 and work more in-depth with all agricultural groups. The  
10 administrative support position must assist in arranging meetings for  
11 in-bound buying missions, making travel arrangements, helping with  
12 computer needs, assisting companies when they call for help, and  
13 general office work.

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

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

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