
SENATE BILL 6438

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen, Haugen, Kastama, Fairley, Rasmussen and Spanel

Read first time 01/17/2002. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & International Trade.

1 AN ACT Relating to agriculture and garden research; and adding a
2 new chapter to Title 15 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The western Washington center for
5 agriculture and garden research is created. The purpose of the western
6 Washington center for agriculture and garden research is to provide
7 statewide leadership in research and extension programs in agriculture
8 and gardening. The western Washington center for agriculture and
9 garden research exists as a quasi-administrative unit of Washington
10 State University, but must be a nonprofit, self-supporting membership
11 organization in its own right.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The western Washington center for
13 agriculture and garden research must require membership dues and accept
14 those gifts, grants, conveyances, devises, and bequests, whether real
15 or personal property, in trust or otherwise, for the use or benefit of
16 the western Washington center for agriculture and garden research; and
17 sell, lease or exchange, invest or expend the same or the proceeds,
18 rents, profits, and income thereof except as limited by the terms of

1 the gifts, grants, conveyances, bequests, and devises; and adopt proper
2 rules to govern and protect the receipt and expenditure of the proceeds
3 of all fees, and the proceeds, rents, profits, and income of all gifts,
4 grants, conveyances, bequests, and devises.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The western Washington center for
6 agriculture and garden research is to work cooperatively with
7 Washington State University to maximize the use of financial resources
8 in addressing agriculture and gardening issues and enhancing
9 agricultural productivity and environmental stewardship for improved
10 quality of life, including, but not limited to:

- 11 (a) Urban plant health care;
- 12 (b) Environmental studies;
- 13 (c) Organic farm and food systems; and
- 14 (d) Human and community development.

15 (2) All assets at Washington State University's research and
16 extension centers located in Puyallup and Mt. Vernon must be
17 transferred to the western Washington center for agriculture and garden
18 research created in section 1 of this act by June 30, 2002.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The governance of the western Washington
20 center for agriculture and garden research is vested in a board of
21 directors to consist of ten members. For the first six years of the
22 existence of the western Washington center for agriculture and garden
23 research, the directors must be appointed by the governor, with the
24 consent of the senate. The directors hold their offices for a term of
25 six years, beginning October 1, 2002. The directors hold their office
26 until their successors are elected by the membership of the western
27 Washington center for agriculture and garden research.

28 (2) Six members of the board of directors constitute a quorum for
29 the transaction of business. In the case of a vacancy, the governor
30 must fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term of the director
31 whose position has been vacated.

32 (3) Each director must, before entering upon the discharge of his
33 or her respective duties as such, execute a good and sufficient bond to
34 the state of Washington, with two or more sufficient sureties,
35 residents of the state, or with a surety company licensed to do
36 business within the state, in the sum of not less than five thousand
37 dollars, conditioned for the faithful performance of his or her duties

1 as a director. However, the western Washington center for agriculture
2 and garden research must pay any fees incurred for such a bond for the
3 board members. Members of the board must be reimbursed for travel
4 expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The western Washington center for
6 agriculture and garden research must be managed by an administrator
7 hired by the board of directors.

8 (1) The board of directors created in section 4 of this act must
9 advise the administrator.

10 (2) It is the responsibility of the administrator, in consultation
11 with the board of directors, to:

12 (a) Recommend research and extension priorities for the western
13 Washington center for agriculture and garden research;

14 (b) Conduct a competitive grants process to solicit, review, and
15 prioritize research and extension proposals; and

16 (c) Advise Washington State University on the progress of the
17 development and implementation of research, teaching, and extension
18 programs.

19 (3) The western Washington center for agriculture and garden
20 research must cooperate with public and private laboratories.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act constitute
22 a new chapter in Title 15 RCW.

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