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SENATE BILL 6471

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State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senators Honeyford, Rasmussen, Johnson, Sheahan, Stevens, Swecker, Shin, Parlette, Deccio, McCaslin, Hochstatter, Gardner, Hewitt, Spanel, Kastama, Regala, Eide, Oke, Hale and Keiser

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

1 AN ACT Relating to labeling of agricultural products by place of  
2 origin; adding a new section to chapter 15.04 RCW; and prescribing  
3 penalties.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 15.04 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The legislature finds that it is a common practice for  
8 consumers to be provided information as to the country origin for many  
9 products available to them for purchase. The legislature finds that  
10 consumers have a right to know the origin of the fresh fruits and  
11 vegetables being offered to them at retail sale. The legislature finds  
12 that there is value to the consumer being able to make an informed  
13 buying decision as to whether the fresh fruit or vegetable was produced  
14 under standards and conditions required in the United States. Further,  
15 the legislature finds that consumers should be given the ability to  
16 make an informed choice to buy fresh fruits and vegetables that are  
17 grown in Washington state as a means of supporting the economy of the  
18 state.

1 (2) Stores or other businesses offering fresh fruit and vegetables  
2 for retail sale to consumers shall place a placard on the bin, shelf,  
3 or other location the product is displayed that informs the consumer  
4 where the fruit or vegetable was grown if it was grown in the United  
5 States or grown in Washington. The placard shall indicate that the  
6 product was either "Grown in United States" or "Grown in Washington."  
7 Placards are not required if (a) the product was grown outside of the  
8 United States, or (b) each item in the bin, shelf, or other location  
9 contains a sticker or label that indicates where the fruit or vegetable  
10 product was grown.

11 (3) The department shall administer this section. If the store or  
12 other retail location is found to be in violation of this section, for  
13 the first violation per location each calendar year, the department  
14 shall issue a warning. For a second violation for the same location in  
15 the same calendar year, the department may issue a civil fine of up to  
16 two hundred fifty dollars. For the third and subsequent violations for  
17 the same location in the same calendar year, the department may issue  
18 a civil fine of up to one thousand dollars.

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