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SENATE BILL 6588

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State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senators Rasmussen and Swecker

Read first time 01/22/2002. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & International Trade.

1 AN ACT Relating to food service rules; and adding a new section to  
2 chapter 43.20 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.20 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The legislature finds that the public health interest requires  
7 that there be uniform state food service rules for retail food  
8 facilities to assure that food will be pure, safe, and unadulterated  
9 and to facilitate effective training of food service handlers. The  
10 legislature also finds that the federal food and drug administration  
11 has recently developed an updated model food code to serve as a guide  
12 to states to provide protection of consumers and consistency among  
13 states with regard to food safety and food service. In addition, the  
14 legislature finds that chapter 246-215 WAC has not been comprehensively  
15 reviewed and updated since 1992.

16 (2) Effective July 1, 2004, the state board of health has the sole  
17 rule-making authority to adopt food service rules for retail food  
18 facilities, and the standards and rules adopted by and interpretations  
19 of the state board of health shall be exclusive for food service at

1 retail food facilities. After June 30, 2004, local health departments  
2 shall administer the state food service rules and interpretations,  
3 except as provided for in subsection (3) of this section.

4 (3) This section does not prohibit a local board of health from  
5 adopting a temporary deviation from the state food service rules for a  
6 limited period of time to respond to an emergency that threatens the  
7 public health or safety of the citizens of its community. The state  
8 board of health shall review the local emergency administrative action  
9 within sixty days after the action is taken to determine if the state  
10 board of health should adopt a statewide rule under the administrative  
11 procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW.

12 (4) By December 1, 2003, the state board of health shall adopt  
13 updated food service rules. Periodically after July 1, 2004, the state  
14 board of health shall review and update the rules in consultation with  
15 local boards of health and the regulated community.

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