

SSB 6636 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) An interagency work group shall be  
4 formed by the departments of health, agriculture, and ecology to  
5 develop a comprehensive state policy on proper methods for disposing of  
6 animal carcasses in a manner that protects other animals and humans.

7 (2) In developing the state policy, the interagency work group  
8 shall include the involvement of:

9 (a) Local health departments;

10 (b) Other state and federal agencies that have an interest or  
11 expertise in the issues to be reviewed by the work group;

12 (c) University scientists;

13 (d) Representatives of meat processors;

14 (e) Representatives of animal feeding operations; and

15 (f) Other affected constituency groups.

16 (3) In developing the comprehensive state policy, the interagency  
17 work group shall:

18 (a) Include a review of existing rules for their adequacy in  
19 protecting public health and animal health from possible transmission  
20 of diseases including, but not limited to, various forms of  
21 transmissible spongiform encephalopathies;

22 (b) Examine the possible vectors of disease transmission including  
23 air, land, water, birds, and scavengers;

24 (c) Evaluate any applicable existing or proposed federal  
25 regulations and applicable draft technical guides, including, but not  
26 limited to, RCW 16.68.020, WAC 246-203-120(3), and guidance from the  
27 United States department of agriculture; and

28 (d) Develop an educational component that will provide information  
29 and technical guidance to governmental entities, animal owners, and the  
30 public on how to comply with the state policy and associated rules.

1 (4) The comprehensive state policy may include references to  
2 federal regulations and guidance documents, and the work group shall  
3 strive for a high degree of consistency between jurisdictions.

4 (5) The interagency work group shall provide a written report to  
5 the appropriate standing committees of the legislature by December 17,  
6 2004, and December 16, 2005, that summarizes the actions of the work  
7 group and its findings and recommendations, including any  
8 recommendations for legislation to amend statutes that are necessary to  
9 implement the state policy developed under this section or to adjust  
10 any inconsistent state policies.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 16.68.020 and 1949 c 100 s 2 are each amended to read  
12 as follows:

13 ((Every)) (1) Except as provided by the department of agriculture  
14 in emergency rules adopted pursuant to section 3 of this act, a person  
15 owning or having in charge ((any)) an animal that has died or been  
16 killed on account of disease shall immediately bury the carcass  
17 ((thereof)) of the animal to such a depth that no part of the carcass  
18 shall be nearer than three feet from the surface of the ground.

19 (2) Any animal found dead shall be presumed to have died from and  
20 on account of disease.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Until December 30, 2005, the department of  
22 agriculture may issue emergency rules for the disposal of diseased  
23 animal carcasses that are supplemental to, or contrary to, RCW  
24 16.68.020, if the director of the department of agriculture deems that  
25 such rules are appropriate for the disposal of a large number of  
26 animals.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act expires December 30, 2005.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
29 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
30 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
31 immediately."

32 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Removes the provisions that provided rule-making authority to the Departments of Ecology, Health, and Agriculture and adds representatives of meat processors and animal feeding operations to the group involved with studying proper carcass disposal methods. Gives emergency rule-making authority to the Department of Agriculture until December 30, 2005, to adopt rules providing for alternative methods for disposing of a large number of animal carcasses.

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