

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1435

As Reported by House Committee On:
Agriculture & Natural Resources

Title: An act relating to the fruit and vegetable district fund.

Brief Description: Concerning the fruit and vegetable district fund.

Sponsors: Representatives Armstrong, Linville, Schoesler, McDermott, Hinkle, Wood, Newhouse, Grant, Quall, Holmquist and Condotta.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Agriculture & Natural Resources: 2/7/03, 2/11/03 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Extends the date by which monies transferred from a district fruit and vegetable fund in 1997 must be expended for apple maggot control activities or be transferred to a district account within the Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Account.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 13 members: Representatives Linville, Chair; Rockefeller, Vice Chair; Schoesler, Ranking Minority Member; Holmquist, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Kristiansen, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Chandler, Eickmeyer, Grant, Hunt, McDermott, Orcutt, Quall and Sump.

Staff: Kenneth Hirst (786-7105).

Background:

State law authorizes the Director of Agriculture to establish a fee-for-service program to provide, upon request, services to growers and other interested parties for special inspections and certifications, identifications, diagnostic services, and activities needed to facilitate the movement or sale of plant products or bees and bee products. Monies collected from providing these services are deposited in the Plant Pest Account in the Agricultural Local Fund.

Other laws require the Director of Agriculture to establish standards and grades for apples, apricots, Italian prunes, peaches, sweet cherries, pears, potatoes and asparagus and allow the Director to establish them for other fruits and vegetables. For the purposes of these laws, the state is divided into not less than two fruit and vegetable inspection districts. The fees collected for these services in an inspection district are deposited in a district account within the Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Account, which is used as a revolving fund to carry out services within the district.

In 1997 legislation authorized a transfer of \$200,000 in funds from District #2, as it was then composed, to the Plant Pest Account for activities related to apple maggot control. Funds from this transfer that are unexpended by June 30, 2003, are to be returned. The three districts that were in existence in 1997 were consolidated into two districts in 2002 in response to legislation enacted that year. The legislation also required that the transferred monies be returned to the district account for the district containing Yakima County. Yakima County was in District #2 before the consolidation and remains in District #2 following it.

Summary of Bill:

The date by which monies transferred from the district fund of District #2 must be expended from the Plant Pest Account for apple maggot control activities is extended by two years to June 30, 2005.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not Requested.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect on June 30, 2003.

Testimony For: The department is working in cooperation with the industry for the use of these monies.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Dave Ducharme, Yakima Valley Growers-Shippers Association; and Leslie Emerick, Washington State Department of Agriculture.