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HOUSE BILL 2421

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State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Williams, Campbell, Hunt, Moeller, Upthegrove, Appleton, Hasegawa and Simpson

Prefiled 1/3/2006.      Read first time 01/09/2006.      Referred to Committee on Economic Development, Agriculture & Trade.

1            AN ACT Relating to force-feeding birds; adding a new chapter to  
2 Title 69 RCW; prescribing penalties; and providing an effective date.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The definitions in this section apply  
5 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

6            (1) "Bird" includes, but is not limited to, any species of  
7 waterfowl such as goose, duck, or the cross breed commonly known as the  
8 mulard.

9            (2) "Foie gras" means the liver of a bird that has been  
10 specifically fed to produce a large, fatty liver.

11            (3) "Force-feeding" means any process, whether implemented by hand  
12 or machine, of feeding a bird that causes the bird to ingest more food  
13 than a typical bird of the same species would consume voluntarily.  
14 Force-feeding methods include, but are not limited to, delivering feed  
15 through a tube or other devise inserted into the bird's esophagus.

16            (4) "Person" includes, but is not limited to, individuals,  
17 partnerships, corporations, associations, and retail and restaurant  
18 establishments.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A person may not force-feed a bird, or hire  
2 another person to force-feed a bird, for the purposes of enlarging the  
3 bird's liver beyond normal size.    This section does not apply if the  
4 person force-feeds a bird for the purpose of improving the bird's  
5 health.

6        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    A person may not sell or offer to sell any  
7 foie gras or any product containing foie gras unless the foie gras or  
8 product containing foie gras originated from a state or other  
9 jurisdiction that prohibits the practice of force-feeding birds to  
10 produce foie gras.

11       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    Any person who violates this chapter is  
12 subject to a civil penalty of one thousand dollars per violation for  
13 each day the violation continues.    Moneys collected under this section  
14 shall be deposited into the state general fund.

15       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    Section 3 of this act takes effect January  
16 1, 2012.

17       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**    Sections 1 through 4 of this act constitute  
18 a new chapter in Title 69 RCW.

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