

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SB 6284

As Passed House:

March 4, 2008

Title: An act relating to the dairy products commission.

Brief Description: Modifying provisions relating to the dairy products commission.

Sponsors: By Senators Schoesler and Rasmussen.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Agriculture & Natural Resources: 2/20/08, 2/21/08 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 3/4/08, 91-4.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Makes changes regarding the composition of the Washington Dairy Products Commission (Commission).
- Eliminates the producer-dealer position on the Commission, reducing the number of commissioners from 10 to nine.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 13 members: Representatives Blake, Chair; Van De Wege, Vice Chair; Kretz, Ranking Minority Member; Warnick, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Eickmeyer, Grant, Kristiansen, Lantz, Loomis, McCoy, Nelson, Newhouse and Orcutt.

Staff: Colleen Kerr (786-7168).

Background:

The Washington Dairy Products Commission (Commission) was created by the Washington State Legislature in 1939 under statute. The Commission is directed by a board of 10 commissioners comprised of seven dairy producers, one producer-dealer, one processor

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representative, and one representative of the Washington State Department of Agriculture. The Director (Director) of the State Department of Agriculture appoints commissioners and oversees the Commission's budgetary expenditures.

Summary of Bill:

The Commission shall be composed of nine members, and removes the requirement that one commissioner is a producer-dealer. When only one candidate is nominated for a position, the Director has the discretion to appoint or reject the candidate. Vacancies will be filled by appointment by the Director from a list of candidates proposed by the Commission. When only one candidate is proposed, the Director may appoint or reject the candidate and request an additional candidate from the Commission.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) The Senate bill is the same as the House bill. It goes to streamlining the process for nominating, selecting, and rejecting candidates to serve on the Commission and eliminates a position to reflect changes in the industry.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Chris Cheney, Washington Dairy Federation.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.