

SSB 6343 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources

ADOPTED AS AMENDED 03/05/2010

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

4 (a) A number of governmental agencies and programs of the state  
5 share goals and missions relating to food, nutrition, agriculture,  
6 health, education, and economic development through sustained  
7 agricultural production and improved access to nutritious foods;

8 (b) The food and agriculture industry generates forty-two billion  
9 dollars annually, employs one hundred sixty thousand people, and  
10 contributes thirteen percent to the state's economy;

11 (c) Agriculture is a leading employer in the state, produces over  
12 three hundred different crops, and is composed of many diverse types of  
13 agricultural endeavors;

14 (d) Washington state continues to lose approximately seventy  
15 thousand acres of farmland every year to nonfarming uses and the  
16 average age of farmers in the state is fifty-seven;

17 (e) Washington is currently ranked twenty-eighth in the nation for  
18 very low food security with one hundred twelve thousand households  
19 experiencing hunger, a twenty-four percent increase from 2008;

20 (f) According to data average for the years 2004 through 2008,  
21 nearly sixty-one percent of Washington adults are either obese or  
22 overweight;

23 (g) Obesity contributes substantially to the burden of preventable  
24 illnesses and premature death, which are estimated to cost Washington  
25 almost two billion dollars annually; and

26 (h) The current food system in Washington state is complex and  
27 directly affected by the activities and policies of multiple  
28 nongovernmental organizations, state agencies, and local governments,  
29 and a coordinated, systemic approach is necessary to improve the health

1 of Washington's citizens and improve the economic viability of  
2 agriculture.

3 (2) The legislature recognizes the need to understand the impacts  
4 of governmental rules and regulations on the viability of the  
5 agricultural sector and on the ability of citizens of all backgrounds  
6 to obtain sufficient, high quality foods for themselves and their  
7 families.

8 (3) The purpose of this act is to provide for the establishment of  
9 a forum whereby state food policy, food-related programs, and food-  
10 related issues can be examined, improved, and better integrated to  
11 accomplish the overarching public goals. It is the intent of the  
12 legislature to place the state in a favorable position to qualify for  
13 available federal funds, moneys from foundations, and other sources to  
14 fund the activities of the forum.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The Washington food policy forum is  
16 established. The purpose of the forum is to develop recommendations to  
17 advance the following food system goals:

18 (a) To increase production, sales, and consumption of Washington-  
19 grown foods;

20 (b) To develop and promote programs that bring healthy Washington  
21 grown foods to Washington residents, including increased state  
22 purchasing of local food products for school, adult care programs, and  
23 other state-funded food programs;

24 (c) To review and develop programs that support providing proper  
25 nutrition and avoid burdens of obesity and chronic diet-related  
26 diseases;

27 (d) To protect the land and water resources needed for sustained  
28 local food production;

29 (e) To examine ways to encourage retention of an adequate number of  
30 farmers, the educational needs for an adequate agricultural workforce,  
31 and to provide for the continued economic viability of local food  
32 production, processing, and distribution in the state; and

33 (f) To reduce food insecurity and hunger in the state and ensure  
34 that the benefits of a healthy Washington food system are shared with  
35 families at all income levels, and particularly with vulnerable  
36 children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and communities of  
37 color.

1 (2) Recommendations shall include benchmarks and criteria for  
2 measuring progress in achieving each goal.

3 (3) Recommendations shall consider, but not be limited to, ways in  
4 which the following may help achieve each of the five goals:

5 (a) Increased collaboration and communication between state  
6 agencies;

7 (b) Increased collaboration and communication between local, state,  
8 and federal agencies;

9 (c) Innovative public-private partnerships that can leverage  
10 private and public market influence such as through institutional  
11 purchasing and contracts;

12 (d) A review of (i) the future of farming study that was  
13 coordinated by the department of agriculture with regard to the goals  
14 established in this section, (ii) reports issued by the office of  
15 farmland preservation with regard to the goals established in this  
16 section, and (iii) data and analysis of food insecurity across the  
17 state as reported by the department of health behavioral risk factors  
18 surveillance surveys;

19 (e) Improvements to state or federal laws or regulations relevant  
20 to the food system and food security in the state;

21 (f) Improvements in state or federal program implementation  
22 relevant to the food system and food security in the state;

23 (g) Identifying additional federal, state, local, and private  
24 investments needed to accomplish the recommendations.

25 (4) In developing its recommendations, the forum:

26 (a) Shall coordinate with the office of farmland preservation to  
27 avoid duplication of effort;

28 (b) Shall solicit public input through public hearings or  
29 informational sessions;

30 (c) May conduct research and analysis as needed within financial  
31 resources available to the forum; and

32 (d) Shall invite additional stakeholder participation through an  
33 advisory committee created to address issues identified by the forum as  
34 requiring study or particular expertise.

35 (5) The forum may establish advisory committees to address specific  
36 issue areas.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    (1) All members of the Washington food  
2 policy forum are voting members.

3        (2) The following are invited to participate as ex officio members  
4 of the Washington food policy forum convened under section 4(1) of this  
5 act:

6        (a) The director of the department of agriculture or the director's  
7 designee;

8        (b) The secretary of the department of health or the secretary's  
9 designee;

10       (c) The superintendent of public instruction or the  
11 superintendent's designee;

12       (d) The director of the department of commerce or the director's  
13 designee;

14       (e) The secretary of the department of social and health services  
15 or the secretary's designee;

16       (f) The dean of the college of agricultural, human, and natural  
17 resource sciences at Washington State University or the dean's  
18 designee;

19       (g) The director of the department of ecology or the director's  
20 designee;

21       (h) A representative from the state conservation commission office  
22 of farmland preservation; and

23       (i) A representative from the University of Washington who has  
24 expertise in food systems or nutrition appointed by the president of  
25 the University of Washington.

26       (3) The following members shall be appointed by the governor to the  
27 food policy forum:

28       (a) Five farmer representatives. The governor shall endeavor to  
29 ensure that geographic diversity, size of operation, and farmer age are  
30 balanced among the five farmer representatives, and shall select the  
31 farmer representatives from persons nominated by established  
32 agricultural organizations;

33       (b) One representative who represents food distribution,  
34 processing, and marketing interests;

35       (c) One representative who represents direct-to-consumer marketing  
36 efforts;

37       (d) One representative who represents community-based efforts to  
38 address nutrition and public health;

1 (e) One representative who represents nongovernmental statewide  
2 anti-hunger efforts;

3 (f) One representative who represents food banks;

4 (g) One representative who represents nongovernmental statewide  
5 efforts to protect the state's land, air, and water;

6 (h) One representative from a labor union that represents workers  
7 in the food industry;

8 (i) One representative from the international trade sector with  
9 expertise in the trade of food products;

10 (j) One person representing retail grocers who own a single store  
11 or a regional chain with less than ten million five hundred thousand  
12 dollars in gross revenue per location annually, nominated by an  
13 established food industry association; and

14 (k) One representative from the restaurant sector.

15 (4) The fourteen governor-appointed members shall be appointed for  
16 terms of three years or until a successor is appointed. Members are  
17 eligible to be reappointed.

18 (5) The chair of the forum shall be elected by the members of the  
19 forum for a term not to exceed two years.

20 (6) The public members of the forum shall serve without  
21 compensation from state funds. The ex officio members of the forum  
22 shall serve without additional compensation of state funds. Members of  
23 the forum may receive reimbursement from the forum for travel expenses  
24 as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 if funds for forum  
25 operations are available as determined by the director of the office of  
26 financial management.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The governor shall appoint a person to  
28 convene an organizational meeting of the food policy forum. At its  
29 first meeting, the forum must, at a minimum, (a) elect a forum chair  
30 from among its members, (b) identify funding sources for the forum, and  
31 (c) begin the development of a work plan.

32 (2) No state agency or state university may be compelled to incur  
33 expenses in connection with the operation of the forum.

34 (3) The forum shall report its initial findings and recommendations  
35 by December 1st of the year following the date of the second meeting of  
36 the forum. Thereafter, the forum shall submit an annual report that  
37 includes recommendations and progress on benchmarks by December 1st

1 each year. These reports shall be submitted to the office of the  
2 governor and to the offices of the chief clerk of the house of  
3 representatives and the secretary of the senate.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This chapter expires July 1, 2015.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act constitute  
6 a new chapter in Title 15 RCW."

7 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Adds a representative of the restaurant sector to the food  
policy forum.

--- END ---