
Government Operations & Elections Committee

HB 2622

Brief Description: Designating the central Washington state fair as the official state fair.

Sponsors: Representatives Johnson, S. Hunt and Chandler.

<p>Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designates the Central Washington State Fair as the official state fair.
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Hearing Date: 1/29/14

Staff: Amanda Ondrick (786-7296) and Marsha Reilly (786-7135).

Background:

On March 15, 1893, the Legislature established the "The State Fair of Washington." The stated purpose of the fair was to promote the advancement of all agricultural, stock-raising, horticultural, mining, mechanical, and industrial pursuits in the state. An annual fair or exhibition was held within two miles of the city of Yakima from 1893 to 1930.

A state fair was not held in 1930 or 1931 due to the Legislature's refusal to approve an operating budget. The fair was held again from 1932 through 1936 but was unsuccessful. Therefore, the Legislature abolished the state fair and no fairs were held in 1937 or 1938.

In 1939 a group of businessmen representing agriculture, livestock breeders, and business, met and decided to hold a fair in Yakima once again. They incorporated under the name "Central Washington Fair Association" and have held an annual fair to promote and develop agriculture.

Since then, the fair has grown to become a 10 day affair and attendance has risen steadily. A variety of activities are offered such as concerts, wine and beer gardens, carnival rides, and agricultural activities.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill:

The Central Washington State Fair is designated the official state fair. This designation does not create special rights for the fair or operate to infringe upon existing names of any fair in the state.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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