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**Agriculture & Natural Resources  
Committee**

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**HB 1268**

**Brief Description:** Regarding hemp as a component of commercial animal feed.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Buys, Lytton, Shea, Wilcox, Young, Holy and McCaslin.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Requires the Washington State Department of Agriculture to evaluate whether hemp and hemp products should be allowed as a component of animal feed.

**Hearing Date:** 2/4/15

**Staff:** Jason Callahan (786-7117).

**Background:**

A commercial feed license is required of every person who manufactures, distributes, or is listed as a guarantor of a commercial animal feed. The license is issued by the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA). Commercial animal feed must be packaged with a label stating the contents of the feed, the common names of ingredients, the net weight, and a guaranteed analysis of the contents.

Commercial animal feeds may not be sold if they include ingredients that are not recognized as acceptable ingredients or if they include ingredients that are seen as an alteration of the feed. The WSDA is responsible for deciding which ingredients are acceptable. In doing so, they are required to consider federal regulations and the official definitions and terms adopted for commercial feed by the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO).

The AAFCO is a voluntary membership association of local, state, and federal agencies that regulate the sale and distribution of animal feeds. The AAFCO is not a regulatory agency in and of itself, but an organization composed of regulatory agencies from across the country. To be

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eligible for sale in Washington, most feed ingredients must meet definitions established by the AAFCO.

Hemp is currently not an allowable component of animal feed in Washington and is not defined as a feed ingredient by the AAFCO.

**Summary of Bill:**

The WSDA is required to evaluate whether hemp and hemp products should be allowed as a component of animal feed. In that process, the WSDA may focus its efforts as appropriate and limit its scope to particular classes of animals where current research suggests that hemp has the most benefit on animal health, animal welfare, the resulting animal product, or the overall physical environment.

The WSDA must take the appropriate administrative actions to allow hemp as a component of commercial feed if it is determined in the evaluation that the addition of hemp is appropriate. If the WSDA finds that hemp is not an appropriate addition to the list of allowable feed ingredients, then a report must be issued to the Legislature explaining the WSDA's findings.

The WSDA must complete the evaluation by June 30, 2018. If that date cannot be satisfied, the WSDA must recommend legislation to request an extension of the date.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

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