

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1268

As of March 24, 2015

Title: An act relating to hemp as a component of commercial animal feed.

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

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

Brief History: Passed House: 3/03/15, 97-0.

Committee Activity: Agriculture, Water & Rural Economic Development: 3/12/15 [DP-WM].

Ways & Means: 3/24/15.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, WATER & RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Majority Report: Do pass and be referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

Signed by Senators Warnick, Chair; Hatfield, Ranking Minority Member; Hobbs and Honeyford.

Staff: Diane Smith (786-7410)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Staff: Sherry McNamara (786-7402)

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. 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).

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.

AAFCO is a voluntary membership association of local, state, and federal agencies that regulate the sale and distribution of animal feeds. AAFCO is not a regulatory agency in and of itself, but an organization composed of regulatory agencies from across the country. To be eligible for sale in Washington, most feed ingredients must meet definitions established by AAFCO.

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

Summary of Bill: WSDA must evaluate whether hemp and hemp products should be allowed as a component of animal feed. In that process, 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.

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 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 WSDA's findings.

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

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony (Agriculture, Water & Rural Economic Development): PRO: This bill is especially important for chicken farmers who need an alternative feed source. This seed has very high omega acids. The commercial growing of hemp in Washington would allow us to not have to import this nutritious seed.

Persons Testifying (Agriculture, Water & Rural Economic Development): PRO: Representative Buys, prime sponsor.

Persons Signed in to Testify But Not Testifying: No one.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony (Ways & Means): PRO: WSDA will evaluate and study the use of hemp seed as a feed source for animals, verify its use, and have it placed on the approved list of allowable feed ingredients. Hemp seed is particularly good for chickens as it is high in omega fatty acids.

Persons Testifying (Ways & Means): PRO: Representative Buys, prime sponsor.

Persons Signed in to Testify But Not Testifying: No one.